



CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 12, 2008

David M. Newman
NYCOSH
116 John Street
Suite 604
New York, NY 10038

u
Melly 4
of White House/CEQ
response to
NYCOSH FOIA
request -
READ CAREFULLY

RE: Post-9/11 Government Operations and Activities Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Mr. Newman:

This is a final response to your April 2, 2007, Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request received by the Council on Environmental Quality ("CEQ") on April 17, 2007. You requested access to "copies of any and all records, notes, memoranda, emails, telephone logs, communications, summaries, reports, and documents or portions thereof pertaining to:

- a conference call held on or about September 13, 2001, between 'EPA, Regional and National, as well as representatives from the White House' and/or CEQ pertaining to 'the quality of the ambient air and the reaction of the general population' in post-9/11 New York City and to the 'financial market,' as cited in a September 13, 2001, email from Efraim Zoldan of OSHA to Patricia Clark, Bonnie Friedman, Gil Gillen, and Richard Mendelson, all also of OSHA, entitled 'Region 2-Update 3-WTC.'
- communications between CEQ and/or the White House and EPA on or around September 28, 2001, about criteria, guidelines, or restrictions pertaining to the posting of 9/11 related environmental sampling results on government websites and specifically with regard to a statement by EPA that 'by orders of the White House...the EPA web page is not being updated with current sample results,' as cited in a September 28, 2001, from Edward Jerome of OSHA to 'redacted' entitled '092801 600pm EOC Safety Meeting Update.'"

In our letter of July 11, 2007, we released five (5) documents, totaling fourteen (14) pages in their entirety and one (1) document totaling one (1) page with redactions pursuant to title 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). We also referred twenty-one (21) documents, totaling forty-three (43) pages to the Environmental Protection Agency for their recommendation on withholding.

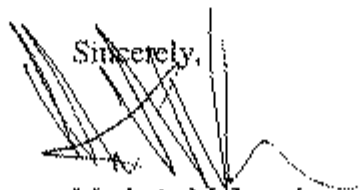
We are now releasing in their entirety an additional twenty-three (23) documents, totaling three hundred thirty-three (333) pages, and one (1) document, totaling thirty-two (32) pages with

redactions pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). We are withholding seven (7) documents, totaling fifteen (15) pages, under that same exemption.

Our search also identified an additional three (3) documents totaling sixteen (16) pages, which originated with EPA. In a circumstance where the FOIA search returns documents that contain items of information originating with, furnished by, or of special interest to another agency, it is appropriate pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B) to consult with the agency of origination, source, or interest on matters regarding release. We have referred these documents to EPA with the request that they respond to you directly.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on this request, you may appeal it by writing to the CEQ FOIA Appeals Officer, 722 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503, within 45 days of the date of this letter. Because of problems with mail transmittal, we suggest that you also fax any such appeal to the Appeals Officer at (202) 456-0753. We thank you for your cooperation throughout this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. McIntosh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark A. McIntosh
Deputy General Counsel
Freedom of Information Officer

Enclosures:
24 documents

CEQ 4

Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center
Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse
Master Assignment Number: 2002-0000702

Record Of Contact Made And Information Obtained:

1. In August and early September, 2003, the Auditor telephoned Mr. Thernstrom several times and requested an interview. Mr. Thernstrom indicated his schedule was very tight and he was not able to schedule an interview.
2. On September 13, 2002, Mr. Thernstrom telephoned the Auditor and stated that he would not be able to schedule an interview because: "My office does not feel it would be appropriate at this time" (see attached e-mail from the Auditor to the OIG Assignment Team Leader advising him of this communication). The Auditor requested an e-mail confirmation from Mr. Thernstrom. However, the Auditor did not hear from Mr. Thernstrom again.
3. On November 26, 2002, OIG's Director of Program Evaluation, Air Quality Issues, sent a written request for an interview to Mr. Thernstrom.

(see work paper A3a)

4. On December 11, 2002, a counselor from the Office of Counsel, Executive Office of the President, telephoned the Director. The counselor indicated that his office and the Council on Environmental Quality wanted to help ensure that the OIG report was accurate, but there were "institutional concerns about interviewing White House employees." The Counselor further indicated that CEQ would help ensure the accuracy of OIG's final report by responding to the draft report.

(see work paper A3b)

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Attachment 1

E-mail

Page 1 of 1

Chris Dunlap

09/13/02 06:19 PM

To: Jim Hatfield/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA

cc: Rick Beusse/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Pierce.Geoffrey@EPA.GOV

Subject: Thernstrom Declines Interview Request

I just got off the phone with Mr. Thernstrom. He told me he would not be able to schedule an interview with me. "My office does not feel it would be appropriate at this time."

I asked for an email. He said he would have to get back with me on that request.

Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center
Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse
Master Assignment Number: 2002-0000702

Title: Telephone Conference With CEQ Counsel

Purpose:

To document the OIG Evaluation team's efforts to arrange an interview with Mr. Sam Thornstrom from the Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President.

Persons Present At Telephone Conference:

Kyle Sampson, Office of Counsel, Executive Office of the President

Rick Beusse, Director for Program Evaluation, Air Quality Issues, OIG, EPA

Jim Hatfield, Evaluator-In-Charge, OIG, RTP

Chris Dunlap, Auditor, OIG, RTP

Date:

December 18, 2002

Background:

Mr. Sam Thornstrom from the Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, contributed to the writing of EPA's early press releases concerning the World Trade Center (see workpaper A2a, page 3). On September 13, 2002, Mr. Thornstrom advised Auditor Dunlap via telephone that he would not be able to schedule an interview saying: "My office does not feel it would be appropriate at this time." On November 26, 2002, Mr. Beusse sent Mr. Thornstrom a written request for an interview (see workpaper A3a). On December 11, 2002, Mr. Kyle Sampson telephoned Mr. Beusse and asked about the reasons for the interview request. Mr. Beusse stated he would explain why an interview was requested when team members Hatfield and Dunlap were available. The following pages of this work paper describe the issues that were discussed during Mr. Beusse's return call.

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Issues Discussed:

The OIG representatives went over the issues shown in the attachment to this workpaper (see the next seven pages).

Counselor Sampson indicated that his office and the Council on Environmental Quality wanted to help ensure that the OIG report was accurate and that the OIG understood Mr. Thornstrom's perspective, but there were "institutional concerns about interviewing White House employees." Counselor Sampson indicated CEQ would respond to the OIG's draft report.

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Attachment, Page 1 of 7

The General Environment Surrounding EPA's Ability To Communicate With The Public After September 11:

1. "All statements to the media should be cleared through the NSC before they are released."

(email from the EPA Deputy Administrator's Chief of Staff, dated September 12, 2001; see work paper A2a, page 13)

2. We have been told that:

- a. Mr. Thornstrom was the contact between EPA and the NSC;

(see work paper A2a, page 3, item 6)

- b. for at least a three to four week period after September 11, Mr. Thornstrom reviewed all EPA press releases and showed them to an NSC representative; in addition, Mr. Thornstrom may have shown these press releases to other representatives of other offices;

(see work paper A2a, page 4, item 10)

- c. Mr. Thornstrom's concurrence was needed by EPA officials before a press release could be issued during this three to four week period (Mr. Thornstrom was referred to as "White House concurrence");

(see work paper A2a, page 4, items 7 and 11)

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3. Mr. Thernstrom's influence on EPA's communications to the public has been described by an EPA official as follows:

"As you can see the White House/Council on Environmental Quality was very involved and requesting to call the shots about content of materials that go out in any fashion - press release, web, etc."

(see work paper A2e2, page 3)

4. We have not located anyone who felt ownership of EPA's press releases during the three or four week period after September 11.

(see work paper A2e2, page 7, item 27)

Examples Of Mr. Thernstrom's Influence:

1. Documents show that Mr. Thernstrom's approval was needed before EPA could post data to its web site. For example, Mr. Thernstrom wrote:

"I don't quite see why it was necessary to post web site information without giving us the courtesy of a heads up and a chance to review."

(see work paper A2e2, page 3)

2. Documents show that Mr. Thernstrom did not want raw data posted on a web site without analysis. For example, Mr. Thernstrom wrote:

"Giving people this raw data without any context is, in my opinion, only adding fuel to their fears."

(see work paper A2e2, page 3)

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3. Documents show that Mr. Thernstrom's perception of problems was different from EPA's. For example, Mr. Thernstrom wrote:

"EPA's perception of what is problematic remains slightly different from my own."

(see work paper A2e2, page 3)

We don't know what this "difference" was; perhaps the difference was:

- a) EPA thought the "problem" was not having information on the web; but
- b) Mr. Thernstrom thought the "problem" was people misinterpreting the information?

Examples Of Mr. Thernstrom's Ability To Reassure The Public Through EPA's Press Releases

(Mr. Thernstrom reassured the public by inserting positive statements and eliminating statements of caution in EPA press releases)

1. As an apparent result of an e-mail from Mr. Thernstrom, a sentence in a draft press release was revised. In the draft it read:

" . . . while the majority of air and dust sample monitored at the crash site in New York have not been of concern recent samples of dust gathered by OSHA on Water Street show higher levels of asbestos in EPA tests."

(see work paper A2a, page 15)

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In the final press release this statement was revised to read:

"the majority of air and dust samples monitored at the crash site and in Lower Manhattan do not indicate levels of concern for asbestos."

(third press release, issued Sunday, September 16; see work paper A2a, page 17)

2. In another case, Mr. Thornstrom suggested that EPA delete a sentence in the second paragraph of the draft:

"strike third sentence ('The concern raised')".

(see work paper A2a, page 14)

In fact, the following statement of concern was deleted from the draft's second paragraph:

"The concern raised by these samples would be for the workers at the cleanup site and for those workers who might be returning to their offices on or near Water Street on Monday, September 17, 2001."

(See Mr. Thornstrom's email, dated September 14, 2001, and EPA's press release, issued on Sunday, September 16, 2001; work paper A2a, pages 14 and 17)

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Additional Examples Of Mr. Thernstrom's Influence On Press Releases

1. Mr. Thernstrom appears to have written the second paragraph of the issued third press release:

"EPA has found variable asbestos levels in bulk debris and dust on the ground, but EPA continues to believe that there is no significant health risk to the general public in the coming days. Appropriate steps are being taken to clean up this dust and debris."

(see work paper A2a, page 14)

2. Mr. Thernstrom suggested that EPA "Add sentence about OSHA monitors walking the streets yesterday and wearing personal monitors and coming up clean."

(see work paper A2a, page 14)

This thought, with some wording suggested in Mr. Thernstrom's email, was added to the issued press release

(see the fourth paragraph of the issued press release)

(see work paper A2a, page 17)

3. Mr. Thernstrom suggested that EPA "INSERT HENSHAW quote somewhere around here";

(see work paper A2a, page 14)

A quote was added:

(see the third paragraph of the issued press release; work paper A2a, page 17)

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4. Mr. Thernstrom's suggested that EPA "ADD OSHA indoor air sampling data sentence";

(see work paper A2a, page 14)

Such a sentence was added:

(see the fifth paragraph of the press release; work paper A2a, page 17)

Examples Of Significant Impact Made By Mr. Thernstrom:

1. EPA's Region 2 Administrator stated: "We have said from the very beginning that apartments need to be professionally cleaned." (see work paper A1.c, page 21, item g). When asked whether EPA had considered putting this information in a press release, an EPA official indicated that information about professional cleaning had been included in a draft press release but Mr. Thernstrom removed it.

(see work paper A2a, page 9)

2. The World Trade Center files of EPA's Office of Public Affairs contained a "PM FACT SHEET" which discussed the health risk to "sensitive populations" from exposure to particulate matter.

When asked why some of this information was not included in an EPA press release, an EPA official stated that it was omitted because Mr. Thernstrom indicated: "health effects information should not be included in EPA's press releases. Anything dealing with health effects should come from New York - they were on the ground; they were already dealing with it."

(see work paper A2a, page 8, item 33)

NYCDOH officials stated they were not aware of any agreement or understanding concerning this philosophy.

(see work paper A2a3)

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3. Mr. Thernstrom wrote the following sentences on Friday, **September 14th**: "New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards." (see work paper A2a, page 14)

However, OSHA sources indicate that: "All [OSHA] sampling that was analyzed before September 17 was done outside in commercial spaces."

(see work paper B1e, page 4, item 14)

In addition, an internal EPA 'Fact Sheet' for September 14th appears to discuss all sample results known at that time, including OSHA samples of dust from cars and vans. This report does not contain any **indoor** OSHA sampling data.

(A hard copy of this document is on file in Notebook 1, File 2, page 16, at the OIG office, Room N283-1, National Computer Center Building, EPA Campus, Research Triangle Park, NC.)

These considerations raise the question of what "new OSHA data" Mr. Thernstrom was reviewing? We need to see this data.

Auditor's note: all of the information in this work paper (except the work paper references) were discussed over the phone with Mr. Sampson including the information in item number 3 above. After the telephone conference with Mr. Sampson, the Auditor obtained additional information from OSHA which indicated there was no inconsistency between the statement in the September 16th press release and the available OSHA test results for indoor air. OSHA indoor test results were available before September 16, 2001. These results, limited as they were, can be interpreted as supporting the statement in the press release that was issued on September 16, that "New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards" [OSHA's standard for occupational workers].

(see work paper B1e1, page 2)

Preparer: Chris Dunlap	Date: 12-19-02	Reviewer:	Date:
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Title: Correspondence With CEQ

Purpose:

To document the letter that was sent to Mr. Sam Thornstrom, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), requesting a meeting to discuss the role of CEQ in the issuance of EPA press releases.

Source:

The attached memorandum was prepared by Mr. Beusse, Director for Program Evaluation, Air Quality Issues; Mr. Hatfield, Evaluator-In-Charge; and Mr. Dunlap, Auditor.

Background:

On August 20, 2002, Auditor Dunlap interviewed Mr. Joseph Martyak, Associate Administrator, Office of Public Affairs, EPA (see work paper A2d for the write-up of this interview). When questioned about EPA's press releases shortly after the collapse of the World Trade Center towers, Mr. Martyak referred the auditor to his predecessor, Ms. Tina Kreisher, formerly EPA's Associate Administrator, Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations (see work paper A2a for the write-up of this interview). Ms. Kreisher indicated that Mr. Sam Thornstrom of the White House's Council on Environmental Quality played a significant role in the issuance of EPA's press releases during the three or four week period after September 11.

In late August, Auditor Dunlap called Mr. Thornstrom several times to request an interview (202-395-7419). Mr. Thornstrom indicated that he was not able to schedule a meeting in the coming few weeks because of other high priority work. On September 13, 2002, Mr. Thornstrom advised Auditor Dunlap via telephone that he would not be able to schedule an interview saying: "My office does not feel it would be appropriate at this time." The Auditor requested an e-mail confirmation, but the Auditor did receive any further communication from Mr. Thornstrom.

Letter To CEQ Representative:

See next page



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION
1301 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N.W. (2460T)
EPA WEST BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

November 26, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: Sam Thornstrom
Council on Environmental Quality

From: J. Rick Beusse /s/
Director for Program Evaluation, Air Quality Issues

Subject: Meeting to discuss EPA's press releases about the World Trade Center (WTC)

As you are aware from discussions with Mr. Chris Dunlap of our office, the EPA Office of Inspector General is evaluating EPA's response to the WTC disaster. One of the objectives of our evaluation is to determine whether the available data supported EPA's major public communications regarding air quality and associated health risks resulting from the collapse of the WTC towers. As such, we need to fully understand the process and support used by EPA to prepare its press releases. In conducting work to answer this objective, we have reviewed correspondence and other documents that indicate you played a significant role in helping EPA formulate its early press releases. We believe these documents contain important information related to our objectives and information that we will likely include in our report.

We would like to discuss this information with you so that we can incorporate CEQ's perspective in our report. You may contact me at 919-541-5747, or Chris Dunlap at 919-541-1029, to arrange a meeting. Thank you for your assistance.

cc: Kwai Chan, Assistant Inspector General, Office of Program Evaluation, OIG
Eileen McMahon, Congressional/Media Relations Liaison, OIG

Title - Correction, Clarification Or Confirmation Of Associate Administrator's Statements

Purpose:

To provide a hard copy of the Auditor's efforts to clarify or confirm the statements of EPA's former Associate Administrator during an interview on August 28, 2002 (see work paper A2a for a write-up of this interview).

Auto Audit Reference - A2a7:

These records were cited in work paper section A2a7.

Date Record Obtained:

The Associate Administrator's input was obtained during a conference on September 24, 2002.

Source:

Tina Kreisher, Speechwriter, Office of the Secretary, United States Department of the Interior; former Associate Administrator, Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations (the predecessor to EPA's current Office of Public Affairs); 202-208-5338

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Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center
Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WRC Collapse
Master Assignment Number: 2002-0000702

Description of Record:

The attached hard copy documents show:

1. Printed statements from work paper A2a where the Auditor wrote-up the oral statements made by former Associate Administrator Kreisher during an interview on August 28, 2002.
2. The Auditor's check mark beside statements which indicate the former Associate Administrator's confirmation that the statements accurately reflected her thoughts (see check marks in attached pages).
3. Notations made in ink by the former Associate Administrator to clarify or correct certain printed statements.
4. Notations made by the Auditor in pencil, including a notation on the last page where the auditor subsequently (September 25) changed a sentence based on a voice mail message left by the former Associate Administrator on September 25.

Conclusion:

The former Associate Administrator corrected, clarified, or confirmed the statements that are attributed to her in work paper A2a.

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Sighted by
Ms. Kreisher

Before September 11, OCEMR maintained continuous contact with the White House Communications Office which was headed by Karen Hughes.

Ms. Kreisher's contact with the White House Communications Office was Mr. Scott McClellan. Ms. Kreisher was not familiar with the organizational structure of the White House Communications Office and did not know whether he worked directly for Ms. Hughes.

Standard operating procedures before September 11 were for representatives from each cabinet communications office to discuss potentially significant news events during a daily morning conference call. Each communications office was given the opportunity to discuss breaking news events in their department/agency. The purpose of the conference call was to keep the White Communications Office from being surprised by a significant news event, and to allow the offices to coordinate their responses if more than one office was likely to be asked about the event.

After September 11, a more formal coordination structure was established.

According to Ms. Kreisher, after September 11, Each cabinet communications office was assigned an additional contact person (Ms. Kreisher continued to work with Mr. McClellan). Mr. Sam Thornstrom was EPA's additional contact (Mr. Thornstrom was also the contact for the communications offices of OSHA and at least one other entity).

Ms. Kreisher indicated that she needed to keep Mr. Thornstrom informed about all news pertaining to September 11. She referred to Mr. Thornstrom as "White House concurrence."

She sent all press releases about the terrorist attack, and all related web site information to Mr. Thornstrom and Mr. McClellan.

Ms. Kreisher indicated that the intent of the White House Communications Office was "to coordinate info, ~~not suppress it.~~" She made reference to a flood situation years ago when local and federal officials gave the public "seven directions on how to boil water."

Ms. Kreisher did not know exactly whom Mr. Thornstrom consulted, or the extent of his consultation, but she understood that:

- a. he initially showed all press releases to a representative from the National Security Council;
- b. he worked with Dr. Condoleezza Rice's ^{press} secretary;
- c. he would "run the press releases through" whomever needed to see them;
- d. after three or four weeks, he no longer needed to show all press releases to a representative from the National Security Council.

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A press release could not be issued without Mr. Thernstrom's approval for a three or four week period after September 11. However, information may have been posted to EPA's WTC web site without his approval during this time.

No other approval was necessary except an OSHA representative's approval was needed on one press release that was issued jointly by EPA and OSHA. Ms. Kreisher could not remember the name of the OSHA official who approved the final wording in the press release.

Mr. Thernstrom used to work for the New York Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Thernstrom helped make the decision that EPA would use the OSHA standard for asbestos.

Initially New York City officials wanted to control the monitoring information in the sense that they wanted to post all the information on their web site. Initially, we agreed, but it soon became clear that EPA needed to be the focal point for getting information on to a web site. ✓

EPA's Administrator made it clear that one of her prime objectives was to get the web site up. ✓

Ms. Kreisher indicated that if you took your time to put information on the web and waited until every bit of information had been double checked, very little raw data would be released. ✓

*with the concurrence of
Chief of Staff, Eileen McElvaine.*

In most instances, she made the decision what information would be included in the press releases. However, some information was suggested by OSHA, some by Mr. Thernstrom, and some by various EPA officials, including a number of Region 2 officials. ✓

Overall, most of the information that was included in the briefings probably came from Region 2 officials.

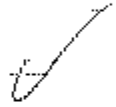
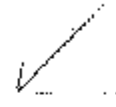
There is no single file or summary record which shows the specific information that was considered before a press release was prepared. Someone may be able to reconstruct this information, but it was not retained in an organized fashion. Many people were consulted and much information was reviewed before a press release was issued, but there is no organized record of this process.

Ms. Kreisher was asked: "In regard to press conferences or other occasions when information is provided verbally to outsiders:

Do you have any policy concerning the preparation and distribution of a 'point sheet,' or other document, which might summarize EPA's official position on major issues that might be discussed?"

Ms. Kreisher indicated there was no written policy on this subject. Occasionally they had "talking points." They would always consult with the appropriate technical experts on technical issues before providing answers to the press or public. They would provide the facts. If an opinion was expressed, they would provide the basis for the opinion, particularly if the opinion might be relevant to a lawsuit.

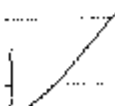
An OIG representative showed Ms. Kreisher a two-page "PM FACT SHEET" and a one page transmittal email, dated September 27, 2001, which had been retrieved from the area used by EPA's Office of Public Affairs for storage (see Attachment 3 to this interview write-up). The "PM FACT SHEET" discussed the health risk to "sensitive populations" from exposure to particulate matter. The OIG representative asked Ms. Kreisher whether she had considered putting any of this information in a press release. She indicated she had. However, according to Ms. Kreisher, Mr. Thornstrom told her that "health effects information should not be included in EPA's press releases." Mr. Thornstrom further said that "Anything dealing with health effects should come from New York - they were on the ground; they were already dealing with it."



Ms. Kreisher stated:

- a. It was the role of HHS or OSHA to speak about health effects ("we were not the people that spoke on health").
- b. The thought was there should be a central place where everyone should go to look for health information.
- c. Initially that central place was a New York City web site (she believes this web site was the City's health department).
- d. In EPA's press releases, EPA referred readers to this web site.

When asked whether Mr. Thornstrom had provided additional guidance, Ms. Kreisher replied that she could not think of anything else.



Ms. Kreisher was asked: "Does EPA have a policy which addresses the question of when an EPA employee may speak on EPA's behalf at a public forum, such as a tenant association meeting?" Ms. Kreisher answered "no."

When asked about "lessons learned," Ms. Kreisher indicated that she was not ready to discuss this subject at this time. She stated that, under the circumstances, she thought EPA officials did an outstanding job of dealing with the situation. She referred particularly to the speed with which monitoring samples were gathered, analyzed and reported on the web. She believed this whole effort was extraordinary.

When asked if she felt pressure from Mr. Thornstrom, she replied that she "felt extreme pressure" from him. She further stated: "I did not feel like it was my press release" even though he would periodically say: "Of course, this is your press release."

She does not recall having any contact of significance concerning the WTC with anyone in the NSC. She may have called someone or sent over some information, but she does not recall any details about any contact she may have had. Mr. Thornstrom dealt with the NSC

In her opinion, press releases are not generally EPA's most important method of communicating with the public. In her opinion, the most important method is through a reporter who obtains information by personally contacting the Office of Public Affairs or a knowledgeable EPA official. The good reporters do not rely on press releases and do not quote from press releases. Most press releases pile up in newsrooms. The good reporters obtain their stories through their own efforts.

There is no document, such as a "Record of Decision," which recorded what was agreed upon or who participated in any agreements concerning the statements that were included in the WTC press releases. (C)

She does not recall having any discussions of significance about the WTC with any officials from New York. However, Mr. Thornstrom was in contact with them. ✓

She does not recall having any discussions of significance about the WTC with any officials from other federal agencies except OSHA (she had extensive discussions with OSHA officials on one press release).

When asked whether there was a conscious effort to reassure the public, Ms. Kreisher said there was such an effort. This emphasis "came from the Administrator and the White House." ✓

In regard to the documents which were in storage at the EPA's Office of Public Affairs (see the Background Section of this work paper), an OIG representative showed Ms. Kreisher copies of essentially all of the documents he had seen (a few documents were not shown to Ms. Kreisher, such as duplicate copies). Ms. Kreisher confirmed that these documents were from her files, but she indicated that these documents were not all of the WTC documents which she had left when she went to her new job. She further indicated, to the best of her recollection, all of the WTC information she left was contained in two accordion-type files (the writer estimates that the information he reviewed would not fill one accordion-type file).

One of the file folders may have included duplicate situation reports that may have been discarded.

The EPA information that went on the web was the same information she had. All figures on the EPA web site were accurate, to the best of her knowledge. "There would have been hell to pay if we tried to change the data on the web site."

Once information began appearing on the web site they felt less need to get out as many press releases.

She did not take any WTC records with her when she left EPA, including any personal, informal notes she may have made.

When asked what documentation Mr. Thernstrom might have had for making suggested changes to press releases, Ms. Kreisher replied that Mr. Thernstrom had access to the same monitoring data and most of the same communications that she had.

In response to a specific question whether the desire to reopen Wall Street had any impact on the content of a press release, Ms. Kreisher indicated that this was not a consideration. "We were never given any pressure" (by Wall Street).

Ms. Kreisher was asked: "Does EPA have a policy which addresses the question of whether any EPA employee may answer any question posed by the press (or some other source outside the Agency)?"

Ms. Kreisher stated that she is not aware of any such policy. Each region and each assistant administrator has his or her own press office. Ms. Kreisher indicated she could not have controlled these offices if she had wanted to. When she worked at EPA she asked to be made aware of interviews with "major media." She also asked each assistant administrator, where possible, not to have an interview without informing the assistant administrator's own press office and Ms. Kreisher's office. Ms. Kreisher was not aware of anyone being "told what to say."

In many cases talking points were prepared by the office most involved in a particular event that would generate press interest. These points were approved at high levels and then distributed to all communications staff who might use them.

When asked how she would characterize Mr. Thornstrom influence on EPA press releases, Ms. Kreisher indicated that he had considerable influence. ✓

Ms. Kreisher was asked about the "High Efficiency Particulate Arresting, HEPA, vacuum trucks" that were discussed in EPA's press release on September 18. Three separate sentences in this press release touted the "cleaning" capability of these HEPA trucks. Later it was learned that the trucks did not initially have the proper filters and the streets of Lower Manhattan were not vacuumed with the proper filters until the second or third week in October. Ms. Kreisher was asked whether "consideration was given to advising the public of this fact through a press release"? ✓

Ms. Kreisher indicated she does not have any recollection of ever having this information.

An OIG representative discussed the subject of "professional cleaning" for indoor residences and work spaces. The OIG representative read a statement which the Wall Street Journal attributed to EPA's Region 2 Administrator: "We have said from the very beginning that apartments need to be professionally cleaned." The OIG representative asked: "Did your office consider advising the public through a press release that they need to obtain 'professional cleaning' for their indoor spaces?" Ms. Kreisher replied that "it was in a press release; it was removed by Sam" [Mr. Thornstrom].

Ms. Kreisher does not recall the wording that was initially included in an EPA press release concerning the need for residents of Lower Manhattan to obtain "professional cleaning"

Ms. Kreisher stated that she believes the wording included the phrase "professional cleaning." However, she does not recall any wording about a "certified asbestos clean-up contractor." Ms. Kreisher further stated that when EPA's Administrator spoke to any group she frequently talked about the need for "professional cleaning of residence" and the need to use a "HEPA vacuum" (High Efficiency Particulate Arresting vacuum). Ms. Kreisher believes she basically included the Administrator's words in the draft of a press release.

and San Francisco

When asked was there anything in the press releases that made her uncomfortable, she discussed the difficulty of getting concurrence from OSHA officials on the wording of the joint press release with OSHA. Ms. Kreisher described this process as "tedious beyond belief."

When asked specifically whether she was concerned with the use of the word "safe" in the press releases, Ms. Kreisher replied "not till later." Ms. Kreisher further stated that the available data indicated the ambient air away from ground zero was safe to breath and they always told the workers at ground zero that they were at risk and needed protection.

It appears from the above that the message of the press releases was that the air was safe to breathe. This is in contrast to the statement of the EPA officials who said that the air was not safe to breathe. This is a contradiction.

Ms. Kreisher was asked: "Do regional Communications Offices have the authority to speak on any subject on behalf of their region, or EPA, without consulting with your office?" Ms. Kreisher stated that they do have such authority. When she was at EPA she asked to be kept informed about important communications.

If national press contacted a regional office on a topic of great importance, Ms. Kreisher asked to be notified and to be advised of the region's response.

Ms. Kreisher indicated that the press release process related to the WTC was "press release by committee."

When asked who specifically told her to write the first press release, Ms. Kreisher replied:

- a. The Administrator said let's get it out;
- b. Ms. Kreisher "knew the message; the go ahead was there";
- c. Ms. Kreisher said that the Administrator probably saw the final version, but Ms. Kreisher does not know this for a fact;
- d. The Administrator did not "sign off on it."
- e. Ms. Kreisher was the last person to okay the first press release.

Ms. Kreisher stated that all press releases pertaining to the World Trade Center disaster were "always approved by the Administrator's Chief of Staff, Eileen McGinnis." In addition, Ms. McGinnis "sometimes took part in negotiations with the White House."

When asked to identify any "guidance, policies, etc for communicating with the public and entities outside the Agency," Ms. Kreisher indicated that she was not aware of any.



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September 16, 2001

EPA, OSHA Update Asbestos Data, Continue to Reassure Public about Contamination Fears [[En Español](#)]

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Labor's Occupational Health and Safety Administration today announced that the majority of air and dust samples monitored at the crash site and in Lower Manhattan do not indicate levels of concern for asbestos. The new samples confirm previous reports that ambient air quality meets OSHA standards and consequently is not a cause for public concern. New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards.

EPA has found variable asbestos levels in bulk debris and dust on the ground, but EPA continues to believe that there is no significant health risk to the general public in the coming days. Appropriate steps are being taken to clean up this dust and debris.

"Our tests show that it is safe for New Yorkers to go back to work in New York's financial district," said John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA. "Keeping the streets clean and being careful not to track dust into buildings will help protect workers from remaining debris."

OSHA staff walked through New York's financial district on September 13th, wearing personal air monitors and collected data on potential asbestos exposure levels. All but two samples contained no asbestos. Two samples contained very low levels of an unknown fiber, which is still being analyzed.

Air Samples taken on Sept. 13th inside buildings in New York's financial district were negative for asbestos. Debris samples collected outside buildings on cars and other surfaces contained small percentages of asbestos, ranging from 2.1 to 3.3 - slightly above the 1 percent trigger for defining asbestos material.

"EPA will be deploying 16 vacuum trucks this weekend in an effort to remove as much of the dust and debris as possible from the site where the samples were obtained," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "In addition we will be moving six continuous air monitoring stations into the area. We will put five near ground zero and one on Canal Street. The good news continues to be that the air samples we have taken have all been at levels that cause us no concern."

The continuous monitoring stations will augment the ambient air quality monitoring located in Brooklyn. EPA and OSHA will remain on site and continue to monitor for levels of asbestos, PCBs, lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the area throughout the long weeks of cleanup ahead. In addition, EPA will move in a bus that has the equipment to do instant analysis of volatile organic compound samples from air at the site. It is called a Total Atmospheric Gas Analyzer and is similar to a unit used during the Gulf War to sample emissions from the oil fires in Kuwait.

The Agency is recommending that businesses in the area planning to reopen next week take precautions including cleaning air conditioning filters and using vacuums with appropriate filters to collect dust. Vacuuming will reduce the chance of re-entering workers tracking dust into the buildings. This work is already underway by city agencies.

The U.S. Coast Guard will be assisting EPA in monitoring impacts, if any, of today's rainstorms on the water quality. However, most of the rainflow is expected to be handled by the City's waste water treatment facility, since there will be only limited sewage in the combined sewer system. EPA has a vessel on site in New York to handle any necessary testing.

Additional technical support has been offered to EPA in New York from the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General's Office of Environmental and Occupational Health. That support would involve five engineers and/or environmental technicians and equipment if needed.

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1/2

Title - Telephone Call To Former EPA Associate Administrator

Purpose -

To document additional information which was obtained from the former Associate Administrator of EPA's Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations

Person Contacted -

Tina Kreisher, Speechwriter, Office of the Secretary, United States Department of the Interior; former Associate Administrator, Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations (the predecessor to EPA's current Office of Public Affairs); 202-208-5338.

Date Of Contact - September 19, 2002

Background -

On August 28, 2002, OIG representatives met with Ms. Kreisher and obtained information about EPA's press releases concerning the World Trade Center disaster (see work paper A2a). Mr. Dunlap, OIG Auditor, telephoned Ms. Kreisher to discuss a possible future meeting. During this discussion Mr. Dunlap obtained the information provided below.

Details (Additional Information Obtained) -

1. Ms. Kreisher does not recall the wording that was initially included in a an EPA press release concerning the need for residents of Lower Manhattan to obtain "professional cleaning" (this information was reportedly deleted at the request of Mr. Thernstrom, who provided a contact point between Ms. Kreisher and the Council on Environmental Quality).
2. In response to Mr. Dunlap's specific questions, Ms. Kreisher stated that she believes the wording included the phrase "professional cleaning." However, she does not recall any wording about a "certified

asbestos clean-up contractor." Ms. Kreisher further stated that when EPA's Administrator spoke to any group she frequently talked about the need for "professional cleaning of residence" and the need to use a "HEPA vacuum" (High Efficiency Particulate Arresting vacuum). Ms. Kreisher believes she basically included the Administrator's words in the draft of a press release.

3. If response to Mr. Dunlap's request for the rationale behind excluding health effects information from EPA's press releases, Ms. Kreisher stated: A A
 - a. It was the role of HHS or OSHA to speak about health effects ("we were not the people that spoke on health").
 - b. The thought was there should be a central place where everyone should go to look for health information.
 - c. Initially that central place was a New York City web site (she believes this web site was the City's health department).
 - d. In EPA's press releases, EPA referred readers to this web site.
4. Ms. Kreisher volunteered additional information on a different subject which had not been brought up by Mr. Dunlap. Ms. Kreisher stated that all press releases pertaining to the World Trade Center disaster were "always approved by the Administrator's Chief of Staff, Eileen McGinnis." In addition, Ms. McGinnis "sometimes took part in negotiations with the White House."

(The above information was added to the write-up of the prior interview, work paper A2a.)

CEQ 14

Preliminary Survey of Air Quality and Related Health Studies Conducted in the Vicinity of Ground Zero



**Prepared for
Dr. John H. Marburger III
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy**

**by
The Air Quality Research Subcommittee
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

December 2002



A Preliminary Survey of Air Quality and Related Health Studies Conducted in the Vicinity of Ground Zero

On April 29, 2002 Dr. John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) asked for the assistance of the Air Quality Research Subcommittee (AQRS) of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) in developing a list of activities related to air quality and related health studies in the vicinity of Ground Zero.

The material presented in this report was provided by the member agencies of the CENR Air Quality Research Subcommittee and as such represents a first survey of the research community involved in research related to the collapse of the World Trade Center and its impact on air quality and possible links to human health. Although the information in this draft represents a significant fraction of the relevant activities, there are clearly some deficiencies, e.g. there is very little information on the work conducted by non-Federal organizations. The AQRS will continue to survey the community and an update to this report will be prepared when sufficient new information has been received.

This report is a scientific and programmatic document, as the preceding Subcommittee reports have been, and it is not intended to represent governmental policy.

Copies of this report are available from:
NOAA Aeronomy Laboratory
Office of the Director, R/AL
325 Broadway, Boulder Colorado 80305-3328
E-mail: aldirhoff@al.noaa.gov
Phone: 303-497-3134
Fax: 303-497-5340

A Preliminary Survey of Air Quality and Related Health Studies Conducted in the Vicinity of Ground Zero

**Prepared for
Dr. John H. Marburger III
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy**

**by
The Air Quality Research Subcommittee
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

December 2002

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Background

The collapse of the World Trade Center buildings as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 produced an enormous dust plume that persisted for several days.

Additional air pollution was generated by fires at the site and by the debris removal process.

In the wake of this tragedy, there has been concern for the health of workers involved in the rescue and clean-up efforts and for the people whose homes and places of work are in the immediate area and who may have been exposed to this pollution.

As a consequence, a number of studies have been conducted by local, State, and Federal agencies to better quantify the impacts of the attacks on local air quality and related health issues.



On April 29, 2002 Dr. John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), asked for the assistance of the Air Quality Research Subcommittee of the Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources in developing a list of research activities related to air quality and health studies in the vicinity of "Ground Zero" (Appendix A). A listing of relevant activities is included in Appendix B.

Inventory Overview



The descriptions of relevant research activities provided by the various agencies are collected in Appendix B. This material covers a broad range of activities that were explored in an attempt to assess the impact of the collapse of the buildings and subsequent rescue and clean up efforts on local air quality and the potential for related human health consequences. The research activities inventoried can be organized into the following broad categories:

Measurements of outdoor pollution – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State and city of New York, and several research institutions operated air pollution monitoring system⁶ in and around Manhattan. These were quickly augmented by a number of agencies that brought specialized equipment to the area that allowed for a more detailed measurement of gas-phase and particle-phase pollution, including its radioactivity. Dust samples were collected

Studies of Air Quality and Health at Ground Zero

directly from the air and from the surfaces on which it deposited. The chemical and physical characteristics of these materials have been characterized in detail.

Measurements of indoor pollution – The dust created by the initial building collapse and subsequent work in the area was transported through open doors and windows and through building ventilation systems into the homes, offices, and schools in the area. Monitors were set up within these structures to quantify dust and fine particle levels and to follow the return to normal indoor levels. Chemical and physical analyses have been performed on airborne and settled dust.

Pollution modeling – State of the art numerical dispersion models and physical models are being used to estimate peak particle levels at a time resolution greater than is possible with the routine monitoring equipment that was in place on September 11. These models also provided estimates of particle exposure for areas of the surrounding area where there were no measurement data.

Health studies – A number of short-term and long-term studies are underway to evaluate the impact of exposure to the pollution at Ground Zero on the health of rescue workers, those involved in debris removal, and those who work and reside in the area.

Outreach – A variety of efforts are underway to provide public access to the enormous amount of data that has been collected regarding air quality and related health issues in and around Ground Zero. Keeping the workers and residents of the area informed has also been a priority of these endeavors.

Table 1 provides a summary of the activities submitted by each agency and organized by the above categories.



Studies of Air Quality and Health at Ground Zero

Table 1. Reported activities by category

Agency Task	Activity Category				
	AQ Measurements Outdoor	AQ Measurements Indoor	Air Quality Modeling	Health Studies	Outreach
DOC-1			✓		
DOD-1				✓	
DOD-2	✓	✓			
DOD-3					✓
DOE-1	✓				
DOE-2	✓				
DOE-3	✓				
DOE-4	✓				
DOE-5	✓				
DOE-6	✓				
DOE-7	✓				
DOE-8			✓		
DOE-9	✓			✓	
DOE-10	✓				
DOE-11				✓	
DOE-12			✓		
DOI-1	✓				
DOT-1			✓		
EPA-1	✓				✓
EPA-2	✓				
EPA-3	✓				
EPA-4	✓		✓		
EPA-5			✓		
EPA-6	✓				
EPA-7				✓	
EPA-8	✓		✓	✓	
EPA-9	✓				
EPA-10	✓	✓			✓
EPA-11					✓
NASA-1	✓				
NSF-1	✓				
NSF-2	✓		✓		
NSF-3	✓				
NIH-1	✓				
NIH-2				✓	
NIH-3					✓
NIH-4				✓	
NIH-5				✓	
NIH-6	✓				
NIH-7					✓
NIH-8	✓	✓		✓	
NIH-9					✓
NIH-10					✓
NIH-11					✓
NIH-12	✓	✓			
NIH-13				✓	
NIH-14				✓	
NIH-15				✓	
NIH-16		✓			
NIH-17			✓		
NIH-18				✓	
NIH-19				✓	
NIH-20					✓
NIH-21	✓				

Status and Plans

The material presented in this report was provided by the member agencies of the CENR Air Quality Research Subcommittee (AQRS) and as such represents a first survey of the research community involved in activities related to the collapse of the World Trade Center and its impact on air quality and possible links to human health. Although the information in this draft is believed to represent a significant fraction of the relevant activities, there are clearly some deficiencies, e.g. there is yet very little information in the inventory on the work conducted by non-Federal organizations. The AQRS will continue to survey the community, and an update to this report will be prepared when sufficient new information has been received.

Nevertheless, the current status gives a very useful indication of the magnitude and scope of the many air quality and health-related research activities that were in response to the tragic event. The summaries in Appendix B, with their goals, brief descriptions, and contact information, should be useful in enhancing awareness, interaction and collaboration among these and other endeavors.

The AQRS also plans future discussions on this topic at future meetings as it explores the general relationship between Homeland Security and air quality science. The goal of these discussions is to help further strengthen the interaction among those agencies involved in air quality and related health studies in the vicinity of Ground Zero.

The Subcommittee appreciates the efforts by its members to canvas their departments and agencies for relevant research activities.

Appendix A

April 29, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FROM: John H. Marburger, III
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

SUBJECT: Ground Zero Air Quality Tasking

The aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 resulted in environmental and health concerns associated with air quality in the vicinity of Ground Zero. Numerous Federal, state, and local agencies and departments and private contractors have undertaken testing and monitoring of the conditions at, and surrounding, Ground Zero. The goal of these activities is to better inform Ground Zero workers and those who live, go to school, and work in lower Manhattan. The Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has requested OSTP's assistance in coordinating the monitoring activities and the communication of data related to air quality and health effects at Ground Zero and the surrounding areas affected by the September attacks.

To address EPA Administrator Whitman's request, OSTP is formally tasking the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) to provide data relevant to this subject. OSTP requests that the recipient agencies address the following issues:

1. Survey existing activities within the agency to determine any that address:
Monitoring of outdoor and indoor air quality at and around Ground Zero in association with the events of September 11 and the ensuing activities.
Monitoring of acute and chronic health effects from incident-related air quality problems at, and surrounding, Ground Zero.
Please include the following information: project name, brief scope, dates of performance (or ongoing), and contact information for a project leader.
2. Identify activities that the agency sponsors or in which it takes an active role related to Ground Zero air quality and health related activities at the state and local government levels and also within the private sector, including non-government organizations (NGOs). In addition, the agencies should identify non-Federal activities of which they are aware, even though they may not be active participants.

Where known, please provide OSTP with the following information on these activities: project name, brief scope, dates of performance (or ongoing), and contact information for a project leader.

Recipient agencies are requested to work through their CENR Air Quality Research Subcommittee representative (when appropriate) and respond to OSTP by May 24, 2002, with ongoing updates as warranted by additional activities. Point of contact for this action is Paul Anastas (202-456-6105, panastas@ostp.eop.gov).

Appendix A



Appendix B

Project Descriptions by Agency

Department of Commerce - DOC

DOC-1

Project Name: Plume Forecasts from World Trade Center Collapse Site

Scope: The collapse of the World Trade Center buildings created an enormous plume of smoke and dust of questionable composition. In an effort to forecast the plume trajectory, the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory HYSPLIT (HYbrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory) model was configured to simulate dispersion using the recently updated version of the model, which included improved advection algorithms as well as updated stability and dispersion equations. The model was run interactively on the Web through the ARL Real-time Environmental Applications and Display sYstem (READY) coupled with National Weather Service Eta model data. Forecast output data from the model were verified using NASA TOMS satellite information. Forecast simulations were performed for several days while a strong regional signal was apparent in the satellite photographs.

Dates of Performance: September 11 - 15, 2001.

Project Leader: Bruce Hicks, Director, NOAA Air Resources Laboratory, Silver Spring, Maryland. Phone: 301-713-1811, fax: 301-713-0119, email: bruce.hicks@noaa.gov.

Department of Defense - DOD

DOD-1

Project Name: Staten Island Landfill Investigation Personal Exposure Assessment

Scope: The debris from the World Trade Center was deposited at multiple sites within the Staten Island landfill, which is known to contain asbestos. A multi-agency effort developed to investigate exposure to atmospheric emissions generated by heavy equipment, road traffic and helicopters. Work was performed by US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM) occupational health and air quality teams, the New Jersey Army National Guard (ARNG), and Phillips and Jordon, Inc. in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE), US Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Sampling used NIOSH and EPA reference methods for personal dose monitoring and OSHA accepted methods for collection and analysis of asbestos, mercury, silica, heavy metals, total dust, combustibles, and carbon dioxide samples. Bulk and wipe samples taken in the support area and debris deposit sites were analyzed and archived. Preliminary analysis shows no exceedences for any of the samples.

Dates of Performance: September 2001 - October 2001

Project Point of Contact: Ms. Shirley Chapman
Maryland National Guard
Telephone: 410-942-0273 ext 12
Email: shirley.chapman@md.ngb.army.mil

DOD-2

Project Name: Staten Island Landfill Investigation Area Atmospheric Monitoring

Scope: The debris from the World Trade Center was deposited at multiple sites within the Staten Island landfill, which is known to contain asbestos. A multi-agency effort developed to investigate exposure to atmospheric emissions generated by heavy equipment, road traffic and helicopters. Work was performed by US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM) occupational health and air quality teams, the New Jersey Army National Guard (ARNG), and Phillips and Jordon, Inc. in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE), US Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Sampling used NIOSH and EPA reference methods for indoor and outdoor locations and OSHA accepted methods for collection and analysis of asbestos, mercury, silica, heavy metals, total dust, combustibles, and carbon dioxide samples. Meteorological data collected included temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction. Preliminary analysis shows no exceedences for any of the samples.

Dates of Performance: September 2001 - July 2002

Appendix B

Project Point of Contact: Ms. Paula Higgins
Corps of Engineers, New York District
Telephone: 212-264-1376
Email: paula.m.higgins@nan02.usace.army.mil

DOD-3

Project Name: Army World Trade Center Support Health Assessment

Scope: This outreach program is intended to assess all Army components involved in relief efforts and to capture the nature of any associated health problems. The goal of the program is to document respiratory and psychological health concerns and identify recovery trends. The health assessment was sent to approximately 116 Army civilians and active duty soldiers and 130 members of the New Jersey Army National Guard. The New York ARNG used the New York Department of Health survey, which was sent to approximately 7,000 individuals.

Dates of Performance: April 2002 - ongoing

Project Leader: COL Richard Kramp
US Army CHPPM
Telephone: 410-436-2714
Email: richard.kramp@amedd.army.mil

LTC Tim Mallon
US Army CHPPM
Telephone: 410-436-4312
Email: timothy.mallon@amedd.army.mil

Department of Energy - DOE

DOE-1

Project Name: Impactor Measurements and Aerosol Size-Fractionated Analyses

Scope: A DRUM impactor, loaned to the Environmental Measurements Laboratory (EML) by the University of California - Davis, was installed on the Laboratory's building roof at 201 Varick Street (approximately one mile north of the WTC). It provided a continuous record of atmospheric aerosols in 8 size ranges. Analyses of these samples from October 2001 have provided information of the atmospheric aerosol mass size distribution with a time resolution of 45 minutes. Elemental analyses of the samples provided a time resolution of 3 hours. The complete analysis of the samples includes: optical - color macro photography of the samples, optical transmission spectroscopy at 320-820 nm in 1 nm steps; mass - soft beta ray transmission, scanning transmission ion in vacuum, STIM; elemental composition (Na-U) - synchrotron x-ray fluorescence, digital Si(Li) analysis; hydrogen - proton elastic scattering analysis (PESA); size and morphology - scanning electron microscopy (SEM) with x-ray analysis; speciated organic matter - laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (LDITOF/MS). The analyses are being carried out by: the University of California - Davis, Department of Applied Science; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Center for Accelerator Mass Spectroscopy; and the University of Utah, Department of Meteorology.

Dates of Performance: October 2, 2001 to December 20, 2001

Project Leader: Dr. Robert Leifer
Environmental Measurements Laboratory (DOE)
Telephone: 212-620-3626
Email: robert.leifer@eml.doe.gov

DOE-2

Project Name: Total Particulate Sampling and Elemental Analysis

Scope: EML is operating a high volume filter sampler ($1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$ flow rate) used to assess total particulates on the Laboratory's building roof. With anticipated support from the U.S. EPA and collaboration with Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, filter samples will be analyzed for 28 elements on an axion single collector high-resolution magnetic sector ICP-MS. Additional funding is being sought for ion chemical analysis and neutron activation analysis.

Dates of Performance: Ongoing

Project Leader: Dr. Robert Leifer
Environmental Measurements Laboratory (DOE)
Telephone: 212-620-3626
Email: robert.leifer@eml.doe.gov

Appendix B

DOE-3

Project Name: Total Particulate Sampling and Sulfur and Oxygen Isotopic Analysis

Scope: A pilot study is underway to analyze a small number of EML's filters for the sulfur and oxygen isotopic composition of the collected aerosol. In collaboration with the University of California at San Diego the analysis of the filters would be carried out to provide information on the source of the sulfur and to characterize the chemical mechanism of formation of the sulfate. If these analyses are positive, funding for a full-scale program will be initiated.

Dates of Performance: Ongoing

Project Leader: Dr. Robert Leifer
Environmental Measurements Laboratory (DOE)
Telephone: 212-620-3626
Email: robert.leifer@eml.doe.gov

DOE-4

Project Name: Total Particulate Sampling and Radionuclide Analysis

Scope: The high volume total particulate sampler is also used to assess atmospheric radioactivity. Specific radionuclides are analyzed via high resolution gamma-ray spectrometry using high-purity germanium detectors. Results are posted to EML's homeland security web page (<http://www.eml.doe.gov>). Collaborative measurements are also being performed on some of these samples by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory using an ultra-low background facility in the attempt to detect any potential Am-241 from smoke detector debris.

Dates of Performance: Ongoing

Project Leader: Mr. Colin Sanderson
Environmental Measurements Laboratory (DOE)
Telephone: 212-620-3642
Email: colin.sanderson@eml.doe.gov

DOE-5

Project Name: Environmental Radiation Measurements

Scope: Beginning in October, 2001, EML started continuous background radiation monitoring on its roof using a pressurized ionization chamber. These real-time gamma exposure rate data are posted every minute on the EML's Homeland Security web page. Subsequently, these data have been supplemented with real-time gamma-ray spectrometric measurements using a NaI detector mounted on the roof. The spectroscopic data are also posted to the web site and can be used to distinguish the source of any rise in background levels.

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Dates of Performance: Ongoing

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DOE-6

Project Name: Aerosol Spectrometer Measurements

Scope: In conjunction with New York University, EML is operating an aerosol spectrometer, a newly-developed device funded through the DOE Environmental Management Science Program, which provides an aerosol size-weighted estimate of dose. This pilot study is directed toward the contribution of long-lived radionuclides, specifically, the actinides. Analysis of radioactive species is planned via ICP/MS.

Dates of Performance: Ongoing

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DOE-7

Project Name: Analysis of Aerosols from the World Trade Center Collapse Site

Scope: The collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC) buildings created an enormous collapse pile which emitted intense plumes of acrid smoke and dust until roughly mid-December, when the last spontaneous surface fire occurred. As part of the UC Davis Delta group we have been characterizing aerosols collected from October 2 until late October at a site roughly 1.8 km NNE of the World Trade Center collapse site. Particles were collected by size (8 modes, 12 to 0.09 micrometers diameter) and time (typical resolution of 1 to 3 hours). The results, derived from seven independent beam-based analytical techniques, showed that while PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ 24 hr values rarely, if ever, violated federal air quality standards, WTC-derived plumes that swept over lower Manhattan Island over periods of a few hours had sharply elevated coarse, fine, and very fine particulate levels. These plumes contained particles with unprecedented amounts of mass in the biologically important very fine mode, $0.26 > D_p > 0.09$ micrometers. Composition was dominated by sulfuric acid, complex organics including PAHs and their derivatives, and glass-like silicon-containing aerosols previously associated with high temperature processes in coal fired power plants. The coarse modes above 1 micrometer contained finely powdered concrete with soot-like coatings and anthropogenic metals, but little asbestos. This study shows the value of highly time resolved, size resolved, and compositionally resolved aerosol data in aerosol emission events that do not match the typical ambient aerosol patterns. In such situations, the impact on health cannot be derived from long-term epidemiological studies but must follow a

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model closer to acute industrial exposures. A person could, in a few hours, be subject to materials in amounts and composition that they would not have had to endure in years of typical conditions. While the WTC event is hopefully unique, there have been, in the past 30 years, many similar types of events that deviate strongly from typical ambient conditions, including industrial accidents, major fires, dust storms and the Mt St. Helens eruption, that would have benefited from increased information on the unique aerosols. Particle collection continued until late December 2001. We are currently applying to NIEHS to characterize the aerosols collected in November and December 2001.

Dates of Performance: Ongoing since October 2001

Project Leader: Dr. Graham Bench
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DOE-8

Project Name: National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC) modeling of initial World Trade Center Plume

Scope: The National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center performed dispersion modeling calculations of the World Trade Center initial plume emanating from Ground Zero on 9/11.

Dates of Performance: September -- October 2001

Project Leader: Dr. Jim Ellis
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DOE-9

Project Name: Determining the Dust Composition Enveloping World Trade Center Workers

Scope: The complex mix of materials at the World Trade Center Site makes assessment of the risk of dust exposure to workers all the more difficult. No single chemical test can tell of the risk, as the hazard can depend critically upon the specific chemical compound present in the dust. Even a battery of tests can miss unexpected chemical compounds or elements. For this reason, PNNL's automated single particle analysis was added to the tools deployed at Ground Zero. Special samplers worn for an entire shift integrate the exposure that the workers encounter. We are analyzing the samples using automated scanning electron microscopy with

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simultaneous x-ray analysis. This is providing not only the size and shape of the dust particles, but also the precise elemental analysis of each dust particle. This make it possible to identify the chemical compound that comprises the dust, which helps determine its sources and likely health effects, if any. These workers are currently wearing extensive personal exposure protection that they lacked earlier in the clean-up project. The dust sampled now should provide insight into the heavier exposures that came earlier in the project (and via fugitive dust, all of NYC, even now). Our samplers are very small (tie-pin-sized), called TAQ (Tiny Air Quality) monitors. Their conveniently small size is possible because our single dust particle techniques require 1/1000'th the amount of sample of other techniques. This study is in conjunction with collaborators from Columbia University's and John Hopkins University's Public Health Departments (via Steve Chillrud and Alison Geyh), who are conducting a long duration study of the exposure of WTC workers. They are looking for possible acute and chronic health effects. They use a variety of chemical tests of the dust, collected with their larger traditional "fanny-pack"/harness samplers.

Dates of Performance: April 15-May 10, 2002 (sampling), Analysis is ongoing

Project Leader: Alex Laskin, Project Leader
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DOE-10

Project Name: RAP Response

Scope: To provide radiological monitoring assistance at ground zero. On September 12, 2001, Region 1 RAP Team responded to the World Trade Center site at the request of the NYC Dept. of Health. Purpose of request was to monitor for possible radioactive sources that were thought to be in the towers at the time of collapse. RAP Team performed several air samples for airborne radionuclides at ground zero. All samples were analyzed and no airborne radionuclides were detected. No monitoring of RAP Team members was performed either for acute or chronic symptoms. RAP Team also performed air samples for airborne radionuclides as part of its normal services at the scene of any event. At Ground Zero, several samples were taken and analyzed. The analyses showed no airborne radionuclides present.

Dates of Performance: September 12-19, 2001

Project Leader: Steve Centore
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DOE-11

Project Name: Acute Exposure Guideline Levels

Scope: Toxicologists in the Toxicology and Hazard Assessment Group of the Life Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory responded to requests and provided Acute Exposure Guideline Level Technical Support Documents to the Division of Environmental Health Assessment of the New York State Department of Health. Information concerning HFC and phosgene were provided in response to air quality concerns at the World Trade Center site.

Dates of Performance: September, 2001

Project Leader: Barry Berven
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DOE-12

Project Name: High-Resolution Tracer Simulations in Lower Manhattan

Scope: As part of the DOE Chemical-Biological Nonproliferation Program, Los Alamos has developed the capability to simulate the dispersion of agents in the extraordinarily complex terrain of urban environments. The capability includes not only the effect of buildings and other "terrain" but also the effects of radiative heating of the buildings on lofting the dispersive agents. Recently, we have begun to investigate dispersion patterns in Lower Manhattan. These simulations are being conducted using the Los Alamos large-eddy model called HIGRAD, and they are using realistic "topography" from Lower Manhattan. In addition we are working in collaboration with the US EPA wind tunnel facility in North Carolina to use their physical model of Lower Manhattan to validate our simulations.

Dates of Performance: Ongoing.

Project Leader: Dr. Michael J. Brown
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Department of Interior - DOI

DOI-1

Project Name: USGS Environmental Studies of the World Trade Center Area After September 11, 2001

Summary: Within the first few days after the September 11, 2001, attack on and collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was asked by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Public Health Service to carry out, in cooperation with NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), a remote sensing and mineralogical characterization study of lower Manhattan around the World Trade Center site. The purpose of this requested study was to provide as rapidly as possible information to emergency response teams about the concentrations and distribution of asbestos and other materials in the dusts deposited around lower Manhattan after the September 11 WTC building collapse.

The Airborne Visible / Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (AVIRIS), a hyperspectral remote sensing instrument, was flown by JPL/NASA over the World Trade Center area on September 16, 18, 22, and 23, 2001. A 2-person USGS field crew collected sweep samples of dust deposits and airfall debris from more than 30 outdoor localities within a 1-km radius of the WTC site on the evenings of September 17 and 18, 2001; this sampling occurred after a major rainstorm event on September 14. Two samples of indoor dust deposits were collected that were presumably not affected by the rainfall. Two samples of material coating a steel beam in the WTC debris close to Ground Zero were also collected. The USGS field crew also carried out on-the-ground reflectance spectroscopy measurements during daylight hours to field calibrate AVIRIS remote sensing data. Laboratory calibration and rectification of the AVIRIS data were done at JPL/NASA laboratories in Pasadena. Surface reflectance calibration, spectral mapping, and interpretation were done at the USGS Imaging Spectroscopy Lab in Denver. The dust, debris, and beam-insulation samples were analyzed for a variety of mineralogical and chemical parameters using Reflectance Spectroscopy (RS), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), chemical analysis, and chemical leach test techniques in U.S. Geological Survey laboratories in Denver, Colorado.

Preliminary results of the study were released, as dictated by Federal government emergency response protocols, via the internet to emergency response teams on September 18 and September 27, 2001. After September 27, limited additional work was done to fill in remaining data gaps, and the study was subjected to more detailed peer review. Permission was received in November to release the web site to the public, which was done on November 27, 2001.

The full report of this study can be viewed at

<http://greenwood.cr.usgs.gov/pub/open-file-reports/ofr-01-0429/>

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Dates of Performance: Nearly all work was done within the period from 9/14/01 to 11/27/01. Some minor new data characterization is still occasionally being performed as new questions arise about the dusts.

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Department of Transportation - DOT

DOT-1 (Related Activity)

Subject: Air Quality Impacts of the September 11th Terrorist Event

Issue: Has the September 11th tragedy affected air quality because of a shift of travel to surface transportation?

FHWA Position: Based on the preliminary information we have been able to gather to date, there is no clear evidence that air quality has been affected due to changes in vehicle traffic patterns or volumes. In fact, it's not yet clear whether there has been a noticeable increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) due to the September 11 tragedy once other factors, such as the economy, are taken into account.

Background:

- Many complex factors influence air quality, including meteorological and chemical conditions. Because of this, changes in motor vehicle emissions do not result directly in changes in the concentration of air pollutants in relation to health standards.
- In addition, because of improved technology, increases in VMT do not necessarily result in increased emissions.
- Data for September show that VMT decreased in 2001 from the same month in 2000. The presumed reason for this decline is the continuing downturn in the US economy. This may change once data for October and November are complete. But preliminary data from 20 States for October only show an approximate 1.6% increase of VMT over October of 2000 (which, in turn, was lower than 1999 VMT).
- Because emissions have been trending downward for the past several years despite increasing VMT, it is unlikely that a small increase in VMT compared to last year can significantly affect emissions or air quality.
- Regional air quality data from the national air monitoring network run by the States and EPA for the period of interest are yet to be released. As soon as the data complete quality assurance and are available we will analyze them for a clear picture of whether there was any increase in the number or severity of violations. We are checking with EPA to see if they have done any specialized analysis of the data.
- Annual VMT versus annual motor vehicle emissions:

Year	VMT (000,000)		Total On-Road Mobile Source Emissions (1000 tons)	
1995	2,422,596		68,883	
1996	2,485,848	+ 2.6%	69,067	+ 0.2%
1997	2,581,895	+ 3.9%	68,008	- 1.5%
1998	2,631,522	+ 1.9%	66,927	- 1.6%
1999	2,691,335	+ 2.3%	64,171	- 4.1%

Sources: EPA National Air Quality Emissions Trends Report, 1999 and FHWA Highway Statistics Series 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999.

Environmental Protection Agency - EPA

EPA-1

Office of Air and Radiation Office of Air Quality and Standards (OAQPS)

Project Name: Air monitoring coordination, data assimilation, and communications

Scope:

- **Initial Coordination of air monitoring efforts:** The OAQPS, at the request of EPA's Emergency Response Team (ERT), assisted development of an air monitoring plan in response to the World Trade Center disaster. Deployed monitors in the neighborhoods of lower Manhattan and expanded the list of pollutants monitored.
 - By September 19th, four new air monitoring sites were established on roof tops (within a 2-6 block radius of impact zone) to sample for asbestos, continuous particles (PM_{2.5} through TEOMs) and 24-hr averaged PM₁₀ (through gravimetry). These new sites were operated by the NYDEC.
 - Additional gaseous compound and particulate matter sampling was conducted periodically by ERT contractors in the immediate work zone areas (WTC and Staten Island).
 - OAQPS staff also coordinated the deployment of advanced and comprehensive air sampling conducted by NERL (See Task #EPA-3).
- **Assimilation of data and presentations:** OAQPS developed the model for the website (See Task #EPA-2) used by the Agency to respond to questions about air quality related to the World Trade Center disaster.
 - Continue to help quality assure data put onto the website.
 - Continue to work on the most appropriate ways to display monitored data and articulate health messages for the public.
 - Conducted a variety of analyses tracking New York City air quality and comparing post-September 11 levels with pre-September 11 levels for different pollutants.
- **Communications support on health risks:** In conjunction with EPA Region 2 (See Task #EPA-2), OAQPS developed risk communications information for asbestos (dust and air samples), particulate matter (coarse and fine particles), PCBs, dioxins, lead, benzene, chromium, and metals.
 - Worked with EPA's Office of Research and Development and American Toxics Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) on developing fact sheets concerning health effects associated with air pollutants (i.e., PM, asbestos).
 - Worked closely with Region 2, EPA's Office of Communications, Education and Media Relations, and other parts of EPA to respond to numerous inquiries from national health and environmental groups, Congressional staff, citizens, the press, other Agencies, etc.

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Dates of Performance: Initial coordination of air monitoring from September 14 - 21. Assimilation of data, presentations, and communication support began September 13 and continues to present.

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EPA-2

EPA - Region II

Project Name: Ongoing air monitoring coordination, database, and communications

Scope:

- Coordination of monitoring of air, bulk dust, and water. Routine air monitoring being done for asbestos, PM_{2.5} mass, PM₁₀ mass, and volatile organic compounds. Intermittent air monitoring being done for PCBs, PAHs, Dioxins, Furans, Lead, Chromium, and other metals. Bulk Dusts checked for asbestos. Drinking water in the area is checked for conformance with MCLs; ambient water and site discharge waters are checked for comparison to background contamination. Air monitoring and analysis being done by EPA (See Tasks #EPA-3 and #EPA-6), New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- Maintain national and regional database. All data known to EPA on air, bulk dust, and water monitoring and analysis is centralized in a database maintained by Region II. Monitoring information and analyses from this data base are available in the form of daily to weekly reports on the *EPA Response to September 11* website at <http://www.epa.gov/wtc/monitoring.html>.
- Provide data, timeline information, and feedback on modeling for risk assessments being done by EPA's Office of Research and Development (See Task #EPA-8).
- Respond to public, Congressional, and press inquiries for data and information. While the EPA website provides up-to-date information on current and past monitoring results for air, water, and bulk dusts and their health benchmarks, questions and requests continue to pour in to the Regional offices. All requests are responded to through the Region II Communications Division.

Reports:

Daily and weekly reports are available at the *EPA Response to September 11* website at <http://www.epa.gov/wtc/monitoring.html>.

Dates of Performance: September 11 to present

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EPA-3

Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)

Project Name: Air quality monitoring at and around Ground Zero - Chemical characterization of the gases and particles released from the World Trade Center.

Scope:

- ♦ A network of four ambient (outdoor) air monitoring sites was established to measure concentrations of gases and particles in lower Manhattan:
 - Three ground-level 1st tier sites (A, C, K) were located within 100-200 m of Ground Zero (the area immediately affected by and including the WTC).
 - A 2nd tier site was located about 500 m from Ground Zero on the 16th floor balcony of the EPA Region 2 building at 290 Broadway.
- ♦ At the Ground Zero sites, battery operated equipment was used to collect ~22hr integrated samples of PM_{2.5} mass on quartz and Teflon filters. Continuous PM mass measurements were done by nephelometer. Volatile organic carbon grab samples were collected using evacuated canisters. Bulk dust samples were also initially collected for physical/chemical characterization.
- ♦ The 290 Broadway site was powered and sampling equipment included integrated PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ mass filter samples, particle size distribution and continuous mass monitors including an aethelometer (elemental carbon) and nephelometer. A research grade sampler for semi-volatile organic carbon analysis was deployed during October and detailed organic characterization analysis was conducted on a subset of samples.
- ♦ Filter samples are being analyzed for gravimetric mass, elemental composition (by XRF) and elemental and organic carbon concentrations. Selected filter samples are being considered for PAH analysis through a grant arrangement now in review. All NERL data and analytical results are provided to Region 2 for consolidation with other monitoring activities (Task #EPA-2).
- ♦ NERL provided additional equipment to Region 2 for the collection of samples for dioxin/furan analysis. These samples were collected at 2nd tier sites by Region 2 and sent to Region 7 (See Task #EPA-6) for analysis.

Dates of Performance: Sample collection at the ground zero sites began 9/21/01 with a projected completion of 5/15/02. Sample collection at the 290 Broadway site began 9/22/01 and was completed 3/27/02. No sampling was conducted at these sites 12/20-29/02; 1/30/02-2/8/02; or 3/27/02-4/15/02.

Reports: Manuscripts in Preparation: 1) *Concentrations and Composition of PM at Ground Zero and lower Manhattan after September 11, 2001* - Alan Vette, Matthew Landis, Ronald Williams, Laura Webb, Thomas Ellestad and Daniel Vallero. 2) *Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and*

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other Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds collected in New York City in response to the Events of 9/11 - Erick Swartz, Len Stockburger and Daniel Vallero. 3) *VOCs in Ambient Air near the World Trade Center Site* - Robert Seila and William Lonneman

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EPA-4

Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)

Project Name: Meteorological measurements and modeling supporting risk assessment.

Scope:

- Meteorological measurements were conducted by NERL using instruments (2 SODAR profilers and a 10-m tower) situated along the Hudson River (Pier 25) to capture the lower atmospheric oncoming wind profile and temperature difference, when wind is from South through West toward North, toward lower Manhattan. These wind directions are most frequent and they led to the transport of any emissions from the WTC recovery site to the nearest population areas North through East of lower Manhattan.
- Data on wind speed, wind direction and turbulent mixing depth will define outer boundary conditions for finer scale simulations of winds and pollution transport among the building surrounding ground zero. These measurements are being used to evaluate the performance of routine meteorological modeling to examine regional transport from the WTC recovery site as part of a June, 2002 risk assessment (See Task #EPA-8).
- A metropolitan scale wind and plume transport model, CALMET-CALPUFF, is being applied to characterize the plume from the WTC Recovery site from September 11 through December 2001. The results of the plume modeling have been depicted on a map of metropolitan New York City along with measured hourly-averaged PM_{2.5} data. This combined information is being used to characterize where and when emissions were transported and dispersed into the neighborhoods surrounding the WTC recovery site.
- In addition, a detailed 3-D virtual model of all buildings of lower Manhattan has been developed based on a commercial database. EPA has significantly refined this database to include monitoring site information and demolished building information to support refined wind and pollution simulations that are being planned and that will make use of both Computational Fluid Dynamics numerical simulations and physical models to project WTC plume dispersion (See Task #EPA-5).

Dates of Performance: Meteorological monitoring began 11/8/02 and ended 5/20/02. Summary data and model results described above are now supporting the EPA NCEA assessment (See Task #EPA-8) and have been provided to EPA Region II (Task #EPA-2).

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Reports:

- Manuscripts in Preparation: 1a) *Evaluation and 1b) Application of the CALMET-CALPUFF Dispersion Modeling System in the New York City Area for Estimating Plume Dilution Downwind of the World Trade Center Recovery Site following September 11, 2001* - Robert Gilliam and Alan Huber; 2) *SODAR Profiles and Surface Measurements for Characterizing the Atmospheric Boundary Layer Near the World Trade Center Recovery Site Following September 11, 2001* - Robert Gilliam and Alan Huber; and 3) *Characterizing the Effect of Meteorology on Air Pollution in New York City Post September 11, 2001* - Alan Huber, Robert Gilliam, Robert Kelly and Henry Feingersh.

Contact Information: Alan Huber, (919) 541-1338, huber.alan@epa.gov

EPA-5

Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)

Project Name: Reconstruction of the Dust/Smoke Plume from the Collapse and Fires of the WTC - An EPA and EOHSI reconstruction of the days following September 11, leading to estimates of human exposures.

Scope:

- Construction of a physical 1:600 scale model of lower Manhattan that will be used in EPA's Fluid Modeling Facility wind tunnel to simulate the WTC plume following the September 11 attack. The experimentally determined airflows and concentration gradients obtained during the wind tunnel simulation will be compared to an EPA Computational Fluid Dynamic (CFD) model so it (CFD Model) can then be used to simulate a greater number of scenarios.
- EPA's CFD results and work with the Environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Institute (EOHSI) will be used to support the development and applications of a model estimation of human population exposures.
- The combined EPA/EOHSI modeling study will:
 - Develop estimates of the temporal and spatial extent and patterns of the dust and smoke concentrations that were released from the collapse of the Twin Towers, and the fires that burned for over three months at the site of the WTC.
 - Develop estimates of population exposures for individuals living and working in Southern Manhattan at the time of the attack and during the weeks to months that followed the attack on the WTC.
 - Develop series of population based exposure distribution functions for use in various time and spatial weighted risk assessments, and characterize individualized exposure within various spatial and temporal zones of influence during the period of rescue and/or recovery after the attack on the WTC.

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- Develop a template for exposure characterization for future collaborations with epidemiological studies that are being designed by National Institutes of Environmental Health Science centers of excellence and other organizations.

Dates of Performance: A plan for these studies is being developed. Work is to be completed in time to support the NCEA 2003 risk assessment (see task #EPA-8).

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EPA-6

EPA - Region VII

Project Name: Laboratory Analysis of WTC samples for Dioxins and furans

Scope:

- Ambient air samples (taken with High Volume air samplers using PUF cartridges) were collected by Region II personnel from three sites in the Manhattan area and mailed to the Region VII Laboratory. Two sets of dust samples from New York were also analyzed, one in late September (3 samples) and one in October (5 samples).
- Over 160 samples have been analyzed for Dioxins and furans by High Resolution Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) by the Region VII lab. Approximately 20 samples were also analyzed for Aroclors.

Reports: The data have been posted on the EPA Response website
<http://www.epa.gov/wtc/monitoring.html>

Dates of Performance: Sample receipt began in October 2001 and the last sample analysis was completed in May 2002.

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EPA-7

Office of Research and Development, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL)

Project Name: Toxicological Effects of Fine Particulate Matter Derived from the Destruction of the WTC

Scope:

- The Pulmonary Toxicology Branch /Experimental Toxicology Division on September 27,

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2001 responded to a request from New York University to collaborate in research efforts to evaluate the potential health effects of particulate matter in the immediate aftermath of the World Trade Center disaster.

- The purpose of the research has been to contribute to the scientific understanding of the short-term health risks associated with particulate matter generated from the immediate destruction of the two towers. The research focused on fine particulate matter (less than 2.5 microns in diameter), and not the larger, coarser particulate matter. The approach was to compare the toxicity of the WTC particulate matter with the toxicity of other particulate material of known varied toxicities.
- Three animal studies on mice were conducted by EPA in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, to examine short-term respiratory effects of fine particulate matter using samples taken from the immediate vicinity of the World Trade Center on September 12 and 13.
- The results of the unpublished studies indicate that the fine particulate matter can cause respiratory problems in animals at relatively high doses that could conceivably have occurred in workers or others in the immediate vicinity of the World Trade Center. The respiratory problems observed included lung inflammation and airway sensitivity to agents, which constrict breathing passages. The effects of long-term or repeated exposures to inhaled particles were not addressed in this research effort. EPA and others will use the results in the ongoing effort to evaluate any potential health risks from the World Trade Center disaster.
- A rigorous internal and external review of the data is being conducted and results will be made available to the public as soon as possible following full Agency review.

Dates of Performance: September 27, 2001 to present

Reports:

- EPA Report EPA/600/R-02/028: Gavett SH, Haykal-Coates N, McGee JK, Highfill JW, Ledbetter AD, and Costa DL. Toxicological Effects of Particulate Matter Derived from the Destruction of the World Trade Center on the Respiratory Tract of Mice. May, 2002. 55 pages.
- Manuscripts in Preparation: Chemical and Physical Analysis of Particulate Matter Derived from Destruction of the World Trade Center for Use in Toxicology Studies. Dose-Response Relationships of Particulate Matter Derived from the Destruction of the World Trade Center in the Respiratory Toxicity in Mice

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EPA-8

Office of Research and Development, National Center for Environmental Assessment
(NCEA)

Project Name: World Trade Center Collapse: Risk Assessment

Scope:

- In the weeks after the collapse, NCEA assisted OAQPS and Region II in preparation of Fact Sheets for PM Health Effects for EPA public website posting of PM data of Lower Manhattan and NYC.
- Assisted Region II and ORD NERL in determining siting of air pollution monitors (**Tasks #EPA-3 and #EPA-4**) in Lower Manhattan to augment data collection for risk evaluation of air emissions from Ground Zero
- Assisted Region II in providing advice on health benchmarks used as criteria for evaluating potential hazardous exposures to air pollutants in lower Manhattan area (**Task #EPA-2**).
- In November 2001, provided a preliminary evaluation of then available air pollution monitoring data to ascertain if air pollution values for particulate matter or its sub-constituents (e.g., lead, other metals, dioxin, etc.) or other volatile organic compounds exceeded (a) typical background levels for NYC/other urban areas or (b) health benchmark values indicative of increased health risk for chronic exposure effects.
- Provided inputs to NERL WTC plume modeling efforts (**Task #EPA-3**) to enhance potential usefulness for health risk evaluations.
- NCEA is currently preparing more detailed risk evaluation to include discussion of NERL and other monitoring and modeling (**Tasks #EPA-4**) results as well as NHEERL toxicity testing (**Task #EPA-7**) and information related to other air monitoring and health related evaluations, as currently available data permits. A second follow-on assessment will be produced one year later.

Dates of Performance: September 27, 2001 to present

Reports:

- Risk evaluation to include discussion of monitoring and modeling results, toxicity testing and information related to other air monitoring and health related evaluations (projected for June 2002).
- Anticipated preparation of a more extensive evaluation of additional data to be included in a report projected to be available late spring (April/May) 2003.

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EPA-9

**Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)
Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD)
Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (ECL)**

Project Name: EPA support to OSHA in response to WTC
Dioxin and furan analysis of OSHA samples for worker safety

Scope:

- OSHA asked assistance of the OPP/BEAD Environmental Chemistry Laboratory at Stennis Space Center, MS in the analysis of air samples for dioxins and furans. The primary purpose was to ensure that the proper respiratory protection could be provided for people working on cleanup of the area.
- OSHA collected air samples using samplers either worn by workers or fixed at a particular area at ground zero.
- 8 field samples and 5 control samples were sent to BEAD/ECL for short turn-around analysis from mid October to early November. Results were reported to OSHA in 9 to 21 days from sample shipment by OSHA.

Dates of Performance: October 14, 2001 through November 26, 2001

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EPA-10

Office of Environmental Information

Project Name: Ongoing database development and website management

Scope:

- Developed and continue to maintain the WTC Multi-Agency Environmental Monitoring Database to house monitoring data collected by thirteen federal, state, city and private organizations conducting monitoring at the WTC site. Developed data entry templates and protocols for each Agency to submit their data and provided interface/reports so these agencies can access and use the database in their decision-making. The Database currently contains hundreds of thousands of records from environmental monitoring conducted at dozens of sites in the lower Manhattan area and surrounding environs.
- In conjunction with Region II, OAQPS, EPA's Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations (OCEMR) and other program staff, developed and continue to maintain an extensive series of interactive EPA Website postings to publicly display monitoring results

Appendix B

for various constituents at the WTC site, including asbestos, particulate monitoring, PCBs, dioxins, metals, VOCs and many more. These postings provided the public with a "clickable" interactive map of all relevant monitoring locations with data tables for each location showing the tabular data results and narrative context to assist in the interpretation and understanding of results. Also developed the WTC EnviroMapper - an interactive mapping application that allows the user to select a geographic location and receive back information on all EPA monitoring conducted in that location.

- Provided support to EPA Region II and OCEMR to respond to public, congressional and private inquiries on status of monitoring activities at WTC site.

Contact Information: Debra Villari, (202) 566-0656, villari.debra@epa.gov.

EPA-11

Office of Communication, Education and Media Relations

Project Name: Health Risk Communications

Scope:

- Coordinated efforts of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS), the Office of Pesticides, Prevention, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), and other Offices to develop contextual language about the pollutants being monitored.
- Worked with the Office of Environmental Information and Region 2 to provide the data and the context together on EPA's WTC Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/wtc/>) to ensure that people viewing the data understand their meaning, particularly with respect to health risks.
- Developed and continue to maintain the Web site for EPA's WTC information (<http://www.epa.gov/wtc/>). Provide editorial oversight for all information published by Region 2, OEI, and others.
- Translated documents into Spanish.
- Coordinated efforts of Region 2, OAQPS, OPPTS, and others to respond to public inquiries in the immediate aftermath of September 11.

Contact Information: Jeffrey Levy, Office of Communications, (202-564-9727), levy.jeffrey@epa.gov.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration - NASA

NASA's remote sensing expertise and measurement capabilities supported activities with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, EPA, and the city and state of New York during the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy. A very real potential for future cooperation between NASA and these Agencies exists in the area of multi-sensor data fusion and analysis, and tactical support with satellite-based geographic information systems (GIS). In addition, NASA imagery can convey the scope of such events to decision makers.

Following is a brief listing of the specific and related activities and contacts:

NASA-1

The NASA multispectral remote sensing AVIRIS instrument (Dr. Diane Wickland, dwicklan@mail.hq.nasa.gov) completed a final flight over the WTC and Staten Island area on September 23. Data from the flight were processed at JPL for "hot spot" updates (Dr. Robert Green, rog@mail2.jpl.nasa.gov) and at USGS/Denver for analysis of the distribution of contaminants from the debris (Dr. Roger Clark, relark@usgs.gov). The AVIRIS data over the area was processed for 311 possible signatures of materials that the EPA is interested in identifying. Preliminary analysis by USGS of the plume indicated that asbestos was not a significant constituent of the plume. The USGS has established a password protected web site to provide appropriate access to the data. Ongoing.

Related Activities:

The Federal Geographic Data Committee's Civil Imagery and Remote Sensing Task Force was established to develop a coordinated National Civil Imagery Strategy for delivery to OMB and OSTP. The Task Force committee members have elected Co-Chair positions to be filled by Greg Snyder of USGS and Ron Birk of NASA. Ongoing.

The Spatial Technologies Industry Association and the Space Enterprise Council of the US Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsored a meeting on Homeland Security on November 8, 2001. NASA's Ron Birk (rbirk@mail.hq.nasa.gov) was invited to chair the panel on Issues and Capabilities with key leaders from the Federal Agencies and the Private Sector, including Jack Dangermond (ESRI), Larry Ellison (Oracle), John Copple (Space Imaging), Mike Thomas (VP Lockheed Martin), Leo Hazelwood, SAIC along with representatives of Department of Justice, EPA, FEMA, and OMB.

NASA provided technical support directly to FEMA ESF5 in New York at meetings of the FEMA disaster response team and serving as a consultant on use of remote sensing. The primary issues were the use of LIDAR to measure the extent of the debris field from the World Trade Center (WTC) and settling of the debris. Several press releases from Regional Applications Center for the Northeast (www.racne.org) acknowledge NASA's contribution of systems

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engineering support. Contact Dr. Bruce Davis (bruce.davis@ssc.nasa.gov), ongoing. Reference NASA Press Release <ftp://ftp.hq.nasa.gov/pub/pao/pressrel/2001/01-243.txt>.

NASA coordinated with the NASA Regional Applications Center for the Northeast (RACNE) to finalize design requirements for a virtual tour of the World Trade Center disaster site. The virtual tour was delivered to the State of New York, Office for Technology. Pictometry International provided the visuals at no cost.

NASA's Dr. Bruce Davis provided presentations of first-hand experience in providing NASA support to the response and recovery efforts for the 9/11 attacks on the WTC. These presentations were provided to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Homeland Security Working Group. The lessons learned and recommendations derived from NASA's experience are being incorporated in individual Agency Homeland Security plans and have been recommended for incorporation in a Rand Corporation study. (bruce.davis@ssc.nasa.gov)

National Science Foundation - NSF

NSF-1

Project Name: Analysis of aerosols from the World Trade Center collapse site, October 2 to October 31, 2001

Scope: The collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC) buildings # 2 (South Tower), #1 (North Tower) and #7 created an enormous debris pile that emitted plumes of acrid smoke and dust until roughly mid-December, when the last spontaneous surface fire occurred. The investigators collected particles resolved by size (8 modes, 12 to 0.09 micrometers diameter) and time (typical resolution of 1 to 3 hours) from October 2 until late December at a site roughly 1.8 km NNE of the collapse site. Samples from the period October 2 through October 30 were analyzed using seven independent beam-based analytical techniques. The total mass measured confirmed EPA 24 hr measurements indicating that PM10 and PM2.5 mass and lead standards were not violated during this period. However, well-defined WTC derived plumes of particles had unprecedented amounts of mass in the biologically important very fine mode, $0.26 > D_p > 0.09$ micrometers, dominated by sulfuric acid, complex organics, and glass-like silicon containing aerosols. The coarse modes particles (size above 1 micrometer) were finely powdered concrete and glass with anthropogenically-derived coatings of metals and soot. WTC plume intensity decreased markedly during October.

Dates of Performance: October 2 - 31 (samples were collected through mid-December but so far not analyzed)

Note: There is a follow-on project with the American Lung Association studying indoor air using the same techniques, same investigator, May 9 - circa May 31 2002. No results are available yet.

Contact: Thomas A. Cahill, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Physics, Emeritus; Research Professor, College of Engineering, University of California, Davis. phone: 530/752-4674, fax: 530/752-9804, email: tacahill@ucdavis.edu.

NSF-2

Project Title: Measurements of particle Emissions from The World Trade Center site in New York City

Scope: This research addresses questions on the particle transport from the World Trade Center (WTC) site through the deployment of state-of-the-art instrumentation to measure the emission and resuspension of particles into the atmosphere. It is planned to conduct the study over a ten-day intensive field observation period at the WTC site and the surrounding region of the greater New York City area to measure the flux of particles from the site and the vertical and horizontal extent of the aerosol plume. At the site, a combination of turbulence sensors, including Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV), Holographic PIV and sonic anemometers mounted on a telescopic

Appendix B

profiling tower to continually measure the shear stress and the concentration and flux profiles of particles from the surface up to 10 m above the site. A scanning elastic lidar system will be deployed to measure at high resolution (1.5 m) the relative concentration of particles in the lower atmosphere (range up to 7 km). The lidar will be deployed both near the site and at sites yet to be identified in the greater NYC area. The lidar system will be calibrated using the concentration measurements obtained from the PIV systems. An analysis of the field data collected will be conducted to identify relationships between weather conditions (e.g., wind shear stress, sensible heat flux) and the magnitude of the surface flux of particles and the extent of the transport into the atmosphere.

Dates of Performance: March 15, 2002 -- March 14, 2003

Contacts: Marc B. Parlange, Professor, Geography and Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University; phone: 410/516-6042, fax: 410/516-8996; email: mbparlange@jhu.edu and Joseph Katz, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Whiting School of Engineering, Johns Hopkins University; phone: 410/516-5470, fax: 410/516-7254; email: katz@titan.me.jhu.edu.

NSF-3

Project Name: Exploratory Research on the Environmental Impact of the World Trade Center Attack on Sediment Quality and Dynamics in New York Harbor

Scope: With this Small Grant for Exploratory Research, researchers at the University of Massachusetts at Boston are investigating the environmental impact of the World Trade Center terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, by studying the chemistry and mineralogy of sediments of New York Harbor. The studies will determine whether atmospheric and storm-water inputs of dust, debris, and contaminants can be used with radiotracers to identify and characterize an event-related stratigraphic imprint, assess impacts on sediment quality, and characterize spatial aspects of sedimentation.

Dates of Performance: February 1, 2002 -- January 31, 2003

Contact: Dr. Curtis Olsen, Professor, Department of Environmental, Coastal, and Ocean Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Boston; phone: 617/287-7440; fax: 617/287-7474; email: curtis.olsen@umb.edu.

National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences — NIH/NIEHS

University	Project Titles	Principal Investigator Contact Information		Study Information	Research Type
Columbia University					
NIEHS-1	Exposure Assessment	Simpson, James	845-365-8570 jsimpson@jhsph.columbia.edu	Geochemical based assessments of WTC emissions, high volume air mail sediments	Monitoring
NIEHS-1	WTC-ITEA Database	Levy, Diane	212-305-6496 dl2015@columbia.edu	Database development	Monitoring
NIEHS-2	Follow-up study of children exposed in utero to the WTC tragedy	Pesera, Frederica	212-305-6496 fpes1@columbia.edu	300 women & children; health during pregnancy; newborn weight, length, head circumference; 6-12 month child assessment; Bayley scales	Health effects
NIEHS-3	Public Dissemination of Database: COEP	Shepard, Peggy	212-963-1000	Public Dissemination of Database	Outreach
overall	Health & environmental effects of WTC exposures	Santella, Regina	212-305-1996 rps1@columbia.edu		
Mount Sinai School of Medicine					
NIEHS-4	Clinical & epidemiologic studies of ironworkers	Levin, Stephen	212-241-7811 stephen.levin@mssm.edu	200 ironworkers for respiratory abnormalities and PTSD	Health effects
NIEHS-5	Epidemiologic study of pregnant women & children	Berkowitz, Gertrud	212-241-8854 berkowitz@mssm.edu	300 pregnant women; pregnancy outcomes - wt., bl., head circumference, fetal length, apgar, perinatal morbidity & mortality; Bayley	Health effects
NIEHS-6	Exposure assessment of WTC emissions using imaging spectroscopy and spatial analysis	Chillrud, Steven	845-365-8570 chilli@jhsph.columbia.edu	Remote sensing imagery for internal structure of the plume combined with ground measurements	Monitoring
NIEHS-7	Outreach to children and families	Forman, Joel	212-241-7207 joel.forman@mssm.edu	Through PESU; independent compilation of data; listserv; newsletter; website	Outreach
overall	Organochlorines in NY and the Hudson River	Lundrigan, Philip	212-241-6173 phil.lundrigan@mssm.edu		
Johns Hopkins University					
NIEHS-8	Registry, health assessment & monitoring	Geyh, Alison	410-955-3546 ageyh@jhaph.edu	Registry, truckers, heavy equipment, laborers. Questionnaire incl.: Respiratory health, risk perception, mental health, quality of life	Monitoring & Health Effects
NIEHS-9	Outreach	Geyh, Alison	410-955-3546 ageyh@jhaph.edu	Worker groups; open forums; newsletters; Risk communication panel	Outreach
overall	Long term effects of clean-up at the WTC disaster site	Groopman, John	410-955-3720 jgroopma@jhaph.edu		

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University	Project Titles	Principal Investigator	Contact Information	Study Information	Research Type
New York University					
NIEHS-10	NYC firefighters study	Rorn, William	212-263-6479 william.rorn@med.nyu.edu	Cardio-pulmonary effects in FDNY - 300- bronchial wall thickening, lung parenchyma	Health Effects
NIEHS-11	WTC resident respiratory impact study: physiologic characterization of residents with respiratory complaints	Reibman, Joan	212-263-6479 joan.reibman@med.nyu.edu	Respiratory screening of residents in the affected community with new onset of asthma-like symptoms; questionnaires, field spirometry	Health Effects
NIEHS-12	Exposure Assessment	Lippmann, Morton	845-365-5292 morton.lippmann@med.nyu.edu	Indoor vs outdoor settled dust samples; air monitoring for MA	Monitoring
NIEHS-13	Toxicity Assessment	Chi Chen, Lang	845-331-3560 lang.chen@med.nyu.edu	In vivo, in vitro and ex vivo animal studies for dust toxicity analysis	Toxicology
NIEHS-14	Community outreach program	Thurston, George	845-331-3564 george.thurston@med.nyu.edu	Public forums, newsletter, video development; web pages	Outreach
overall	Health issues related to WTC disaster	Costa, Max	845-331-3515 costam@env.med.nyu.edu		
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey					
NIEHS-15	Qualitative risk assessment	Gallo, Michael	732-445-0175 gallo@umdnj.edu	Perceived vs actual risk; surveys; integrate information from psychological study	Health Effects
NIEHS-16	Analysis of indoor settled dust/smoke samples	Luby, Paul	732-445-0155 pluby@aesht.rutgers.edu	39 samples collected will be exhaustively analyzed	Monitoring
NIEHS-17	Microenvironment modeling in GIS/QGIS framework	Georgopoulos, Panos	732-445-0159 panosg@aesht.rutgers.edu	Develop quantitative computational tools for assessing contaminant release on air quality of local microenvironments.	Monitoring
NIEHS-18	Reproductive outcomes of WTC	Lanphear, George	732-445-0174 glanphear@umdnj.edu	Study time trends for adverse reproductive outcomes for 3 months after 9/11 compared to data over past 3 years.	Health Effects
NIEHS-19	Population health and psychological symptoms	Kipen, Howard	732-445-0123 kipen@aesht.rutgers.edu	Modeling exercise incorporating psychological symptoms with exposure data	Health Effects
NIEHS-20	Community outreach & education program	Gotsch, Audrey	732-235-9700 gotschae@umdnj.edu	New Jersey Town meetings; brochure development	Outreach
overall	WTC supplement	Gallo, Michael	732-445-0175 gallo@umdnj.edu		
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill					
NIEHS-20	Community exposures following the WTC disaster	Ruppaport, Steve	919-966-5017 stephen_ruppaport@unc.edu	PAH analysis of air filters and validation of passive personal monitoring device for particulates	Monitoring
NIEHS-21	Spatiotemporal mapping	Christakos, George	919-966-1767 george_christakos@unc.edu	GIS-based Spatiotemporal Modeling	Monitoring
overall	Community Exposures following the WTC disaster	Swenberg, James	919-966-6139 jamesa.swenberg@unc.edu		

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Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR): Subcommittee on Air Quality Research

The CENR is charged with improving coordination among Federal agencies involved in environmental and natural resources research and development, establishing a strong information-transfer link between science and policy, and developing a Federal environmental and natural resources research and development strategy that responds to national and international issues.

There are five research subcommittees under the CENR:

- Air Quality
- Ecological Systems
- Global Change
- Natural Disaster Reduction
- Toxics and Risk

The Air Quality Research Subcommittee has articulated two major goals in its Strategic Plan:

- to enhance the effectiveness and productivity of U.S. air quality research, and
- to improve information exchange between research and policy on air quality issues, including the scientific knowledge base for air quality standards and assessing compliance

The Air Quality Research Subcommittee is cochaired by DOC/NOAA, DOE and EPA. Dan Albritton of DOC/NOAA serves as Science cochair the Subcommittee, which includes representatives from the following departments and agencies:

Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service
Department of Agriculture - Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Agriculture - U.S. Forest Service
Department of Commerce - National Institute of Standards and Technology
Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services - National Institutes of Health
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of State
Department of the Interior - National Park Service
Department of the Interior - U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration
Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Science Foundation
Office of Management and Budget
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Tennessee Valley Authority

Rylee Thompson - AC in RTU also navigated
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FAX



DATE: 9/16/03

FROM: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

MARK BIALEK

Counsel to the Inspector General

Phone: (202) 566-0863

FAX (202) 566-0870

TO: Nanette Everson - Office of Counsel to the President

FAX # 202/456-5345

PHONE: #

Total Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet): 6

Comments:



Samuel A. Thornstrom
sathorn@epa.gov
09/14/01 05:28 PM

CEP
To: Tim Krisher/DCU/SEPA/LIS/SEPA
cc:
Subject: suggested asbestos language

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced today that both agencies have taken additional air and dust samples in lower Manhattan and analyzed for potential asbestos contamination. The new samples confirm previous reports that ambient air quality meets OSHA standards and consequently is not a cause for public concern. New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards.

EPA has found variable asbestos levels in bulk debris and dust on the ground, but EPA continues to believe that there is no significant health risk to the general public in the coming days. Appropriate steps are being taken to clean up this dust and debris.

Add sentence about OSHA monitors walking the streets yesterday and wearing personal monitors and coming up clear.

INSERT HENSHAW quote somewhere around here

ADD OSHA indoor air sampling data sentence;

Go to "Seven debris and dust samples taken Thursday..." graf, strike third sentence ("The concern raised"); otherwise OK, except perhaps should correct this: OSHA Director John Henshaw... if re-suspended in the air, SHOULD not violate...

E-mails

10/10/01

Bonnie Piper
12/04/02 02:51 PM
To: Chris Duntap/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA
cc:
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

Chris: here is some information about World Trade Center information (data) being posted on the epa website. As you can see the White House/Council on Environmental Quality was very involved and requesting to call the shots about content of materials that go out in any fashion - press release, web, etc.

Bonnie
----- Forwarded by Bonnie Piper/DC/USEPA/US on 12/04/02 02:52 PM -----

Tina Kreisher
09/25/01 06:47 PM
To: Bonnie Piper/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc:
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

----- Forwarded by Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US on 09/25/01 06:47 PM -----



Samuel A. Thomsen
mg@eq.eop.gov
09/25/01 04:26 PM
To: Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc: Brian R. Connaughton/bepd.eop.gov, Scott McClellan/wha.eop.gov, James Connaughton/ceq.eop.gov, Elizabeth A. Steiner/ceq.eop.gov
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

Given that the clearance process on this end has not been holding up EPA's ability to get data out, I don't quite see why it was necessary to post web site information without giving us the courtesy of a heads up and a chance to review. If you had done that, there would be no confusion about who was responsible for posting information about bioterrorism without proper clearance. "Desperation" at EPA or not, the WH clearance process was not holding you up on posting that information, since you had never submitted it to us.

As far as the sample you submitted today goes, in my opinion it shows that in fact there is a value to running things past us, since EPA's perception of what is problematic remains slightly different from my own. These issues are touchy, and it helps to have more than one set of eyes on them.

For instance, on the asbestos data, you propose disclosing that three samples were about EPA's 70 structures per mm sq. standard that you use to clear asbestos after asbestos removal. How does this compare to OSHA's standards? How does this speak to the short-term v. long-term exposure issues? How is the public to know whether this is ambient air or bulk dust? On the whole, what does those three samples in violation of that standard mean from a public health standpoint? What kind of cleanup is warranted, and why? Where were the samples that violated that standard taken? You only say "in and around ground zero and New Jersey."

Handwritten signature or initials.

leaving people in KS to wonder about their safety. Giving people this raw data without any context is, in my opinion, only adding fuel to their fears.

Altogether, although I understand your and the Administrator's annoyance at being screwed by the MSU today, I don't think that the best response is to panic and start posting lots of raw data without proper context and analysis of its meaning. Raw data alone is easily misunderstood and mischaracterized by political candidates in the city who have an axe to grind -- I think you only leave yourself more open to their attacks by giving them more ammunition. If the public needs more info, I think more press releases might help, or at least doing something more than just posting raw data -- a web site posting that includes press release-type language providing context. And I would prefer it if we continue to have the chance to review that information before it is posted. Unless there's a problem caused by slow WH review -- which there hasn't been so far -- I think we should stay in the loop.

Sam

Embedded
image moved Krcishar.71na4sp@mail.upa.gov
to file: 05/26/2001 05:04:17 PM
pic03665.png

Record Type: Record

To: Samuel A. Thornstrom/CEO/ED/WHOP

Re:

Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

Sam, I was in Chicago all day yesterday with the Administrator. It has taken me a while to get through the e-mails and voice mails from yesterday. Plus I have been yelling at the Wall Street Journal all morning over their ridiculous story on page A-10.

The web site information was put up out of desperation for the numbers of calls and e-mails we were getting. The answers were written from the press releases and the links were to other sites we assumed were pre-approved.

I am having someone check on the one you mentioned, which I agree, had not been approved. So far, no one is admitting that they are responsible.

If you were on the conference call today, you heard the administrator read everyone the riot act about having information on the web site to help people and reporters. She was more than mad about the Wall Street Journal story that said we could not give out the raw data. Hence the e-mail you have from me on whether or not we could use the format for our updates and simply put them on the web each day. We certainly would let you know first if there were a problem reading. So far we haven't encountered any save for the phony reading, which is now moot because the city expects to remove the canisters of Green tomorrow.

Donna Tina



pjs23668.ppt

1. 1.

17.2.2

09/20/07 07:04 PM

To: Steven.McGinnis@CAUSEPA.US@EPA, Susan
Spencer@CAUSEPA.US@EPA, Ed Kravitz@CAUSEPA.US@EPA,
Marianne.Hofink@CAUSEPA.US@EPA, Tom
Gibson@CAUSEPA.US@EPA, Jessica.Norm@CAUSEPA.US@EPA,
Tina.Krashes@CAUSEPA.US@EPA,
Linda.Fisher@CAUSEPA.US@EPA

Subject: Report from Deputy Secretaries meeting

The figure consists of two scatter plots side-by-side. The left plot shows a positive correlation between the number of children (x-axis) and the number of adults (y-axis). The data points are scattered, and a regression line is drawn through them, showing a positive slope. The right plot shows a negative correlation between the number of children (x-axis) and the number of adults (y-axis). The data points are scattered, and a regression line is drawn through them, showing a negative slope.

1. All statements to the media should be cleared through the NSC before they are released.
2. Congressional contacts/responses to requests for briefings should be coordinated through White House Leg. Affairs.
3. DOT indicates that tomorrow U.S. air space will be opened for movement of passengers in planes that were diverted during the attack, and to allow the airlines to move a certain amount of their equipment to other airports. The hope is to gradually begin commercial air traffic again sometime tomorrow, although that has not been determined definitely. Resumption of international flights into the U.S. from other countries will be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the country of origin, the airline involved and the degree of security at the originating airport.
4. DOJ is contrasting the "results" of FBI/DOJ investigative efforts to date with those related to the OK city bombing and the first World Trade Center explosions, where there were suspects within 24 hours of the crimes. All DOJ agencies, including the Bureau of Prisons, DEA and INS are involved in the investigation.
5. HHS has pulled three disaster medical teams and 3 morgue teams off of activities in D.C. and is sending them to New York and Pennsylvania. In addition, CDC is conducting "disease surveillance." At this time, they are not expecting large numbers of cases of airborne-related illnesses but will monitor for them. However, they are especially concerned about the West Nile virus spreading from mosquitoes and plague from rats. HHS also indicates that there is no blood shortage in NYC at this time, but will help arrange future blood donations down the line as they become necessary.
6. GSA is working to reopen federal buildings in NYC ASAP. Linda has alerted GSA and White House that there should be consultation with EPA before any reopenings occur to determine whether air circulation systems will pull in air from outside. Region 2 is being notified of this concern this evening.
7. OPM indicated that all but 6 or 7 federal employees have been accounted for (it is unclear whether this includes DOD, but it would appear so). Health and other insurance claims made by federal employees will be expedited by insurance carriers. The Combined Federal Campaign will provide options to contribute to a special set of nonprofits providing attack-related assistance. Federal agencies will be notified about the availability of leave for employees wishing to donate blood. Any necessary security clearances for attack response work will be expedited. The prime contact at OPM is Steven Cotman (or Paul Conway) at 505-1000.
8. Josh Bolton responded to questions about international travel. He indicated that it should go forward once international travel is permitted, but only if employees travelling are not diverted from any work related to response to the attack.

I can elaborate on some of this if you need additional information.

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CEQ 19

1. Did the IG consult with CEQ and seek your authorization to release the CEQ emails.

Yes.

If further info needed:

Once we understood that the IG had made an independent determination to release its own deliberative material concerning EPA's interaction with CEQ and other agencies in the aftermath of Sept. 11th, we decided to authorize their release of these two emails. An important factor in reaching this decision was that much of the substance of these two emails had already been released or referenced by the IG in its initial report of August 2003 (CEQ was not consulted with respect to those emails and their initial release of the August 2003 report).

2. Has CEQ considered releasing all documents and emails concerning this matter?

CEQ has engaged extensively with national and regional media on the objectives we were trying to achieve in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. We have repeatedly reiterated that the health and safety of the local population was always our foremost priority.

As we have not yet received any formal request, we have not considered releasing other deliberative material. We have a high threshold for disclosing "deliberative" material under FOIA, or otherwise, because in instances of responding to national emergencies or of developing important policies we know that executive branch employees need to be free to communicate candidly.

3. Are you concerned about withholding other emails and documents (and deliberative material) concerning air quality post 9/11 because you have something to hide?

CEQ has engaged extensively with national and regional media on the objectives we were trying to achieve in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. We have repeatedly reiterated that the health and safety of the local population was always our foremost priority.

The principle of protecting deliberative material holds for the executive branch, no matter which party holds the White House.

4. What did Mr. Thornstrom mean regarding political candidates with an ax to grind?

We do not know to whom he was referring.

5. What do you think these emails reveal about CEQ's heavy-handed involvement?

By law, CEQ has the responsibility for advising the President on environmental matters and for assisting in the coordination of federal programs related to environmental quality. CEQ engages in these activities on a daily basis. At that time of national crisis, Administration officials had every reason to expect CEQ to actively coordinate environmental matters related to the response.

The emails absolutely reinforce that CEQ was fulfilling its assigned responsibilities to coordinate with agencies throughout the government on environmental matters related to the September 11th attacks. They reinforce the appropriate role and conduct of CEQ in the context of a national emergency to improve the quality of communications to the affected population. – and that the communications were done collaboratively across agencies with all parties providing expertise and input.

As you recall, the days after September 11th were incredibly hectic, and the health and safety of the local population was always the utmost concern. CEQ coordinated communications, the substance of which has been validated by all concurrent and subsequent testing and monitoring.

6. Why did Mr. Thernstrom in Sept. 2002 state that his office said it was not appropriate for him to be interviewed by the IG?

As you will see from the December 2002 interview with White House Counsel's office, Kyle Sampson, and as the IG report confirms, there is a broad reluctance to make White House employees available to any single agency's IG. And that practice applied in this case.

It does not appear that other agencies were actively engaged by the IG in analyzing their roles and contribution to this whole process, yet that they were key contributors in the formulation of press documents.

7. What about the allusions of shouting matches and professional tension between Mr. Thernstrom and Ms. Kreisher?

The email communication shows the individual and collective concern that everyone shared for the safety and well-being of the people of New York. The fact that there was tension amongst human beings following the unprecedented terrorist attacks on our country should come as no surprise in that context. Despite allusions to a tense working relationship, the documents released today contain absolutely no evidence of impropriety in terms of the quality of communications generated by the federal government in that time of national emergency.

Response to NYT email:

1. out of context. Understand her desire to use the political quote, but would only be fair to include quotes from the email in which the sender (Sam) was asking thoughtful questions.
2. Tension between two people during a time of national crisis is entirely ordinary -- didn't change the fact that the highest priority was the safety and well-being of the people of NY and that CEQ coordinated with the agencies to provide the most accurate and reliable information as quickly as possible to the people of Manhattan.
3. City -- cross jurisdictional issue...

CEQ 20

Perino, Dana M.

From: Jennifer 8. Lee [jenny@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2003 2:04 PM
To: Perino, Dana M.
Subject: RE: hey there.

the original documents that the OIG report is based on. lots of details. here is the summary.

- The chief of staff at E.P.A., Eileen McGinnis, had to urge the head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Jim Connaughton, to ask his staff to "lighten up."
- There were "screaming telephone calls" over E.P.A.'s press releases between Tina Kreisher, an associate administrator, and Sam Thornstrom, an official with the White House Council, according to Ms. McGinnis.
- Ms. Kreisher, who now works as a speechwriter at the Department of the Interior, said she "felt extreme pressure."
- Mr. Thornstrom objected to the agency putting raw data on a public Web site, fearing that the information would be taken out of context and "easily misunderstood and mischaracterized by political candidates in the city who have an axe to grind," as he wrote in an e-mail sent to Ms. Kreisher on Sept 25, he said, "I think you only leave yourself more open to their attacks by giving them more ammunition."
- In an interview, Ms. Kreisher also said that Mr. Thornstrom that should let New York City put out because the city was working on that, but city health officials said "they were not aware of any agreement or understanding concerning this philosophy."



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 9, 2003

Phil Cooney
Chief of Staff
White House Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place
Washington, DC

Subject: Transmittal of OIG Workpapers

Dear Mr. Cooney:

By telephone today, you asked if your office could receive copies of Office of Inspector General workpapers, previously reviewed by your office, which relate to Chapter 2 of this Office's evaluation report, "EPA's Response to the World Trade Center Collapse: Challenges, Successes, and Areas for Improvement."

Copies of the workpapers related to the Council on Environmental Quality are enclosed. These were released under the Freedom of Information Act on Tuesday, October 7, 2003.

Please feel free to contact me at 202-566-0865 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Helen A. Mollick", is written over the typed name.

Helen A. Mollick
Deputy Counsel to
Inspector General

Title - Conference With The Former Head Of EPA's Office Of Public Affairs

Purpose -

To obtain the perspective of the former head of the Agency's Office of Public Affairs to EPA's response to the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster and what steps might be taken to improve the Agency's response to future disasters.

Persons Present At Conference -

Tina Kreisher, Speechwriter, Office of the Secretary, United States Department of the Interior; former Associate Administrator, Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations (the predecessor to EPA's current Office of Public Affairs); 202-208-5338

Rick Beusse, Director for Program Evaluation, Air Quality Issues, EPA, OIG, RTP

Chris Dunlap, Auditor, EPA, OIG, RTP

(The conference lasted approximately two hours. Mr. Beusse had to leave the conference shortly after the first hour to meet another commitment.)

Location And Date -

The conference was held on August 28, 2002, in Ms. Kreisher's office, Room 6219, in the Department of the Interior Building, located at 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC.

On September 19, Mr. Dunlap telephoned Ms. Kreisher to discuss a follow-up meeting (see workpaper A2a2 for a write-up of this telephone conversation). Prior to this telephone call Ms. Kreisher had not mentioned the role played by the EPA Administrator's Chief of Staff, Ms. Eileen McGinnis. Mr. Dunlap amended the original write-up to describe this role.

On September 24, while in the District of Columbia for another purpose, Mr. Dunlap showed Ms. Kreisher printed excerpts of all statements that were attributed to her, as the write-up was then written. Ms. Kreisher added a few clarifying words to several thoughts, primarily concerning the actual practices that were followed when communicating with the public. She reaffirmed all statements attributed to her as they are now stated in this write-up.

Scope -

The OIG representatives asked Ms. Kreisher about the role that was played by her former office (EPA's Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations - OCEMR) in response to the WTC disaster and what steps might be taken to improve the Agency's response to future disasters.

Background -

Before the meeting, the OIG representatives interviewed Mr. Joe Martyak, the current Associate Administrator for EPA's Office of Public Affairs (Ms. Kreisher's successor). During this interview the OIG representatives asked to see all files pertaining to the September 11 terrorist attack in New York. The OIG representatives were informed that all these files had been boxed and were in a storage room. One of the OIG representatives subsequently went to the storage room with Mr. Martyak's assistant and looked through three boxes of records which contained information on the September 11 attack as well as information which did not pertain to this attack. The records were not organized. Relevant information was mixed with irrelevant information. The OIG representative attempted to cull all documents which pertained to the September 11 terrorist attack. All of these culled documents could be contained in a single Pendaflex hanging folder which is the type of folder commonly placed in regular file cabinets. After duplicate documents were removed, the height of all remaining documents was less than an inch. These documents were subsequently reviewed and several of these documents formed the basis for some of the OIG representatives' questions, as will be noted below when appropriate. (See workpaper A2a1 for copies of these documents.)

Notes 1, 2, 3

Details (information obtained from EPA's former Associate Administrator in response to the OIG representatives questions) -

1. Before September 11, OCEMR maintained continuous contact with the White House Communications Office which was headed by Karen Hughes.
2. Ms. Kreisher's contact with the White House Communications Office was Mr. Scott McClellan. Ms. Kreisher was not familiar with the organizational structure of the White House Communications Office and did not know whether he worked directly for Ms. Hughes.
3. Standard operating procedures before September 11 were for representatives from each cabinet communications office to discuss potentially significant news events during a daily morning conference call. Each communications office was given the opportunity to discuss breaking news events in their department/agency. The purpose of the conference call was to keep the White Communications Office from being surprised by a significant news event, and to allow the offices to coordinate their responses if more than one office was likely to be asked about the event.
4. After September 11, a more formal coordination structure was established.
5. This formality was reflected in an email which an OIG representative located in the files discussed in the Background Section of this work paper. The email, dated September 12, 2001, stated:
 - a. "All statements to the media should be cleared through the NSC [National Security Council] before they are released."
 - b. "Congressional contacts/responses to requests for briefings should be coordinated through White House Leg. Affairs."

(See Attachment 1 to this write-up)

6. According to Ms. Kreisher, after September 11, each cabinet communications office was assigned an additional contact person (Ms. Kreisher continued to work with Mr. McClellan). Mr. Sam Thernstrom was EPA's additional contact (Mr. Thernstrom was also the contact for the communications offices of OSHA and at least one other entity).

7. Ms. Kreisher indicated that she needed to keep Mr. Thernstrom informed about all news pertaining to September 11. She referred to Mr. Thernstrom as "White House concurrence."
8. She sent all press releases about the terrorist attack, and all related web site information to Mr. Thernstrom and Mr. McClellan.
9. Ms. Kreisher indicated that the intent of the White House Communications Office was "to coordinate info, not suppress it."
10. Ms. Kreisher did not know exactly whom Mr. Thernstrom consulted, or the extent of his consultation, but she understood that:
 - a. he initially showed all press releases to a representative from the National Security Council;
 - b. he worked with Dr. Condoleezza Rice's press secretary;
 - c. he would "run the press releases through" whomever needed to see them;
 - d. after three or four weeks, he no longer needed to show all press releases to a representative from the National Security Council.
11. A press release could not be issued without Mr. Thernstrom's approval for a three or four week period after September 11. However, information may have been posted to EPA's WTC web site without his approval during this time.
12. No other approval was necessary except an OSHA representative's approval was needed on one press release that was issued jointly by EPA and OSHA. Ms. Kreisher could not remember the name of the OSHA official who approved the final wording in the press release.
13. Mr. Thernstrom used to work for the New York Department of Environmental Protection.
14. Mr. Thernstrom helped make the decision that EPA would use the OSHA standard for asbestos.

15. Initially New York City officials wanted to control the monitoring information in the sense that they wanted to post all the information on their web site. Initially, we agreed, but it soon became clear that EPA needed to be the focal point for getting information on to a web site.
16. EPA's Administrator made it clear that one of her prime objectives was to get the web site up.
17. Ms. Kreisher indicated that if you took your time to put information on the web and waited until every bit of information had been double checked, very little raw data would be released.
18. Ms. Kreisher left EPA shortly before Christmas [by this time EPA had issued nine press releases, including a joint release with OSHA].
19. In most instances, she made the decision what information would be included in the press releases, with the concurrence of Chief of Staff Eileen McGinnis. However, some information was suggested by OSHA, some by Mr. Thernstrom, and some by various EPA officials, including a number of Region 2 officials.
20. Ms. Kreisher believes Ms. McGinnis discussed the content of EPA's press releases with Mr. Jim Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality.
21. Overall, most of the information that was included in the briefings probably came from Region 2 officials.
22. Ms. Kreisher indicated that the press release process related to the WTC was "press release by committee."
23. When asked who specifically told her to write the first press release, Ms. Kreisher replied:
 - a. The Administrator said let's get it out;
 - b. Ms. Kreisher "knew the message; the go ahead was there";
 - c. Ms. Kreisher said that the Administrator probably saw the final version, but Ms. Kreisher does not know this for a fact;
 - d. The Administrator did not "sign off on it."

24. The OIG representatives showed Ms. Kreisher three records which had been retrieved from the area used by EPA's Office of Public Affairs for storage (see Attachment 2 to this interview write-up):
- a. a one-page email from Mr. Thernstrom, dated September 14, 2001;
 - b. a two-page draft of EPA's third press release, dated September 14, 2001 (this draft may have been one of several drafts); and
 - c. a copy of the one-page, final version of this press release which was issued on Sunday, September 16, 2001.

25. An OIG representative made the following observations to Ms. Kreisher:

- a. Mr. Thernstrom's email suggests that Ms. Kreisher delete a sentence in the second paragraph of the draft: "strike third sentence ('The concern raised')". In fact, the following sentence was deleted from the draft's second paragraph:

"The concern raised by these samples would be for the workers at the cleanup site and for those workers who might be returning to their offices on or near Water Street on Monday, September 17, 2001."

- b. The first sentence in the draft was changed. The following clause was deleted from the draft:

". . . recent samples of dust gathered by OSHA on Water Street show higher levels of asbestos in EPA tests."

In the draft, this clause had been preceded by the clause:

"while the majority of air and dust samples monitored at the crash site in New York have not been of concern . . ."

This clause was changed in the issued press release to read:

"the majority of air and dust samples monitored at the crash site and in Lower Manhattan do not indicate levels of concern for asbestos."

- c. Mr. Thernstrom appears to have written two sentences in the first paragraph of the issued press release:

"The new samples confirm previous reports that ambient air quality meets OSHA standards and consequently is not a cause for public concern. New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards."

- d. Mr. Thernstrom appears to have written the second paragraph of the issued press release:

"EPA has found variable asbestos levels in bulk debris and dust on the ground, but EPA continues to believe that there is no significant health risk to the general public in the coming days. Appropriate steps are being taken to clean up this dust and debris."

- e. Mr. Thernstrom suggests that Ms. Kreisher "Add sentence about OSHA monitors walking the streets yesterday and wearing personal monitors and coming up clean." This thought, with some wording from Mr. Thernstrom's suggestion, were added to the issued press release (see the fourth paragraph of the issued press release shown in Attachment 2).
- f. Mr. Thernstrom suggests that Ms. Kreisher "INSERT HENSHAW quote somewhere around here"; a quote was added (see the third paragraph of the issued press release).
- g. Mr. Thernstrom suggests that Ms. Kreisher "ADD OSHA indoor air sampling data sentence"; such a sentence was added (see the fifth paragraph of the issued press release).

26. When asked how she would characterize Mr. Thernstrom influence on EPA press releases, Ms. Kreisher indicated that he had considerable influence.
27. When asked if she felt pressure from Mr. Thernstrom, she replied that she "felt extreme pressure" from him. She further stated: "I did not feel like it was my press release" even though he would periodically say: "Of course, this is your press release."

28. When asked what documentation Mr. Thernstrom might have had for making suggested changes to press releases, Ms. Kreisher replied that Mr. Thernstrom had access to the same monitoring data and most of the same communications that she had.
29. In response to a specific question whether the desire to reopen Wall Street had any impact on the content of a press release, Ms. Kreisher indicated that this was not a consideration. "We were never given any pressure" [by Wall Street].
30. When asked was there anything in the press releases that made her uncomfortable, she discussed the difficulty of getting concurrence from OSHA officials and Sam Thernstrom on the wording of the joint press release with OSHA. She and OSHA officials shared the frustration of reaching agreement on the exact wording.
31. When asked specifically whether she was concerned with the use of the word "safe" in the press releases, Ms. Kreisher replied "not till later." Ms. Kreisher further stated that the available data indicated the ambient air away from ground zero was safe to breath and they always told the workers at ground zero that they were at risk and needed protection.
32. When asked whether there was a conscious effort to reassure the public, Ms. Kreisher said there was such an effort. This emphasis "came from the Administrator and the White House."
33. An OIG representative showed Ms. Kreisher a two-page "PM FACT SHEET" and a one page transmittal email, dated September 27, 2001, which had been retrieved from the area used by EPA's Office of Public Affairs for storage (see Attachment 3 to this interview write-up). The "PM FACT SHEET" discussed the health risk to "sensitive populations" from exposure to particulate matter. The OIG representative asked Ms. Kreisher whether she had considered putting any of this information in a press release. She indicated she had. However, according to Ms. Kreisher, Mr. Thernstrom told her that "health effects information should not be included in EPA's press releases." Mr. Thernstrom further said that "Anything dealing with health effects should come from New York - they were on the ground; they were already dealing with it."
34. When asked whether Mr. Thernstrom had provided additional guidance, Ms. Kreisher replied that she could not think of anything else.

35. An OIG representative discussed the subject of "professional cleaning" for indoor residences and work spaces. The OIG representative read a statement which the Wall Street Journal attributed to EPA's Region 2 Administrator: "We have said from the very beginning that apartments need to be professionally cleaned." The OIG representative asked: "Did your office consider advising the public through a press release that they need to obtain 'professional cleaning' for their indoor spaces?" Ms. Kreisher replied that "it was in a press release; it was removed by Sam" (Mr. Thernstrom).
36. In regard to the documents which were in storage at the EPA's Office of Public Affairs (see the Background Section of this work paper), an OIG representative showed Ms. Kreisher copies of essentially all of the documents he had seen (a few documents were not shown to Ms. Kreisher, such as duplicate copies). Ms. Kreisher confirmed that these documents were from her files, but she indicated that these documents were not all of the WTC documents which she had left when she went to her new job. She further indicated, to the best of her recollection, all of the WTC information she left was contained in two accordion-type files (the writer estimates that the information he reviewed would not fill one accordion-type file). However, she further stated that "one of the file folders may have included duplicate situation reports that many have been discarded."
37. Ms. Kreisher was asked about the "High Efficiency Particulate Arresting, HEPA, vacuum trucks" that were discussed in EPA's press release on September 18. Three separate sentences in this press release touted the "cleaning" capability of these HEPA trucks. Later it was learned that the trucks did not initially have the proper filters and the streets of Lower Manhattan were not vacuumed with the proper filters until the second or third week in October. Ms. Kreisher was asked whether "consideration was given to advising the public of this fact through a press release"?

Ms. Kreisher indicated she does not have any recollection of ever having this information.

38. Ms. Kreisher provided the following information in response to specific questions:

- a. There is no single file or summary record which shows the specific information that was considered before a press release was prepared. Someone may be able to reconstruct this information, but it was not retained in an organized fashion. Many people were consulted and much information was reviewed before a press release was issued, but there is no organized record of this process.
- b. There is no document, such as a "Record of Decision," which recorded what was agreed upon or who participated in any agreements concerning the statements that were included in the WTC press releases.
- c. She does not recall having any discussions of significance about the WTC with any officials from New York. However, Mr. Thornstrom was in contact with them.
- d. She does not recall having any discussions of significance about the WTC with any officials from other federal agencies except OSHA (she had extensive discussions with OSHA officials on one press release).
- e. She does not recall having any contact of significance concerning the WTC with anyone in the NSC. She may have called someone or sent over some information, but she does not recall any details about any contact she may have had. Mr. - Thornstrom dealt with the NSC ("Sam handled it.")
- f. In her opinion, press releases are not generally EPA's most important method of communicating with the public. In her opinion, the most important method is through a reporter who obtains information by personally contacting the Office of Public Affairs or a knowledgeable EPA official. The good reporters do not rely on press releases and do not quote from press releases. Most press releases pile up in newsrooms. The good reporters obtain their stories through their own efforts.
- g. The EPA information that went on the web was the same information she had. All figures on the EPA web site were accurate, to the best of her knowledge. "There would have been hell to pay if we tried to change the data on the web site."

- b. Once information began appearing on the web site they felt less need to get out as many press releases.
 - i. She did not take any WTC records with her when she left EPA, including any personal, informal notes she may have made.
39. Ms. Kreisher was asked: "Does EPA have a policy which addresses the question of when an EPA employee may speak on EPA's behalf at a public forum, such as a tenant association meeting?" Ms. Kreisher answered "no."
40. Ms. Kreisher was asked: "Do regional Communications Offices have the authority to speak on any subject on behalf of their region, or EPA, without consulting with your office?" Ms. Kreisher stated that they do have such authority. However, Ms. Kreisher stated: "If national press contacted a regional office on a topic of great importance, . . . [she] asked to be notified and to be advised of the region's response."
41. Ms. Kreisher was asked: "Does EPA have a policy which addresses the question of whether any EPA employee may answer any question posed by the press (or some other source outside the Agency)?"

Ms. Kreisher stated that she is not aware of any such policy. Each region and each assistant administrator has his or her own press office. Ms. Kreisher indicated she could not have controlled these offices if she had wanted to. When she worked at EPA she asked to be made aware of interviews with "major media." She also asked each assistant administrator, where possible, not to have an interview without informing the assistant administrator's own press office and Ms. Kreisher's office. Ms. Kreisher was not aware of anyone being "told what to say."

Ms. Kreisher further stated: "In many cases talking points were prepared by the office most involved in a particular event that would generate press interest. These points were approved at high levels and then distributed to all communications staff who might use them."

42. Ms. Kreisher was asked: "In regard to press conferences or other occasions when information is provided verbally to outsiders:

Do you have any policy concerning the preparation and distribution of a 'point sheet,' or other document, which might summarize EPA's official position on major issues that might be discussed?"

Ms. Kreisher indicated there was no written policy on this subject. Occasionally they had "talking points." They would always consult with the appropriate technical experts on technical issues before providing answers to the press or public. They would provide the facts. If an opinion was expressed, they would provide the basis for the opinion, particularly if the opinion might be relevant to a lawsuit.

43. When asked to identify any "guidance, policies, etc for communicating with the public and entities outside the Agency," Ms. Kreisher indicated that she was not aware of any.
44. When asked about "lessons learned," Ms. Kreisher indicated that she was not ready to discuss this subject at this time. She stated that, under the circumstances, she thought EPA officials did an outstanding job of dealing with the situation. She referred particularly to the speed with which monitoring samples were gathered, analyzed and reported on the web. She believed this whole effort was extraordinary.

(Ms. Kreisher's principal remarks are summarized in work paper F10a)

112a

Claudia McMurray

09/12/01 07:04 PM

To: Eileen McGinnis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Susan
Spencer/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Ed Krenik/DC/USEPA/US@EPA,
Marianne Horinko/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Tom
Gibson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Jessica Furey/DC/USEPA/US@EPA,
Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc: Linda Fisher/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Report from Deputy Secretaries meeting

Linda asked that I provide you with the information received at today's Deputies' meeting. This information applies to attack-related activities of the Agency only. You will note as you review it that this information should be limited to your internal use.

1. All statements to the media should be cleared through the NSC before they are released.
2. Congressional contacts/responses to requests for briefings should be coordinated through White House Leg. Affairs.
3. DOT indicates that tomorrow U.S. air space will be opened for movement of passengers in planes that were diverted during the attack, and to allow the airlines to move a certain amount of their equipment to other airports. The hope is to gradually begin commercial air traffic again sometime tomorrow, although that has not been determined definitely. Resumption of international flights into the U.S. from other countries will be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the country of origin, the airline involved and the degree of security at the originating airport.
4. DOJ is contrasting the "results" of FBI/DOJ investigative efforts to date with those related to the OK city bombing and the first World Trade Center explosions, where there were suspects within 24 hours of the crimes. All DOJ agencies, including the Bureau of Prisons, DEA and INS are involved in the investigation.
5. HHS has pulled three disaster medical teams and 3 morgue teams off of activities in D.C. and is sending them to New York and Pennsylvania. In addition, CDC is conducting "disease surveillance." At this time, they are not expecting large numbers of cases of airborne-related illnesses but will monitor for them. However, they are especially concerned about the West Nile virus spreading from mosquitoes and plague from rats. HHS also indicates that there is no blood shortage in NYC at this time, but will help arrange future blood donations down the line as they become necessary.
6. GSA is working to reopen federal buildings in NYC ASAP. Linda has alerted GSA and White House that there should be consultation with EPA before any reopenings occur to determine whether air circulation systems will pull in air from outside. Region 2 is being notified of this concern this evening.
7. OPM indicates that all but 6 or 7 federal employees have been accounted for (it is unclear whether this includes DOD, but it would appear so). Health and other insurance claims made by federal employees will be expedited by insurance carriers. The Combined Federal Campaign will provide options to contribute to a special set of nonprofits providing attack-related assistance. Federal agencies will be notified about the availability of leave for employees wishing to donate blood. Any necessary security clearances for attack response work will be expedited. The prime contact at OPM is Steven Cohen (or Paul Conway) at 806-1000.
8. Josh Bolten responded to questions about international travel. He indicated that it should go forward (once international travel is permitted), but only if employees travelling are not diverted from any work related to response to the attack.

I can elaborate on some of this if you need additional information.

CMcM.



Samuel A. Thornstrom
m@epa.gov
09/14/01 05:22 PM

To: Tina Kreisher/DCAUSEPA/US/EPA
cc:
Subject: suggested asbestos language

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced today that both agencies have taken additional air and dust samples in lower Manhattan and analyzed for potential asbestos contamination. The new samples confirm previous reports that ambient air quality meets OSHA standards and consequently is not a cause for public concern. New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards.

EPA has found variable asbestos levels in bulk debris and dust on the ground, but EPA continues to believe that there is no significant health risk to the general public in the coming days. Appropriate steps are being taken to clean up this dust and debris.

Add sentence about OSHA monitors walking the streets yesterday and wearing personal monitors and coming up clean.

INSERT HENSHAW quote somewhere around here

ADD OSHA indoor air sampling data sentence;

Go to "Seven debris and dust samples taken Thursday..." graf, strike third sentence ("The concern raised"); otherwise OK, except perhaps should correct this: OSHA Director John Henshaw... if re-suspended in the air, SHOULD not violate..."

E-mails

in m. 11/14/01

September 14, 2001
Draft

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration today announced that ~~while~~ the majority of air and dust samples monitored at the crash site in New York have not been of concern, recent samples of dust gathered by OSHA on Water Street show higher levels of asbestos in EPA tests.

Seven debris and dust samples taken Thursday, showed levels of asbestos ranging from 2.1 percent to 3.3 percent. EPA views a 1 percent level of asbestos as the definition for asbestos-containing material. The concern raised by these samples would be for the workers at the cleanup site and for those workers who might be returning to their offices on or near Water Street on Monday, September 17, 2001. OSHA Director John Henshaw emphasized that the level found even if re-suspended in the air, does not violate OSHA standards. Cleaning up as much of the debris as possible and cautioning workers to not track the dust into their buildings would be a proper defense for the levels found.

"EPA will be deploying 16 vacuum trucks this weekend in an effort to remove as much of the dust and debris as possible from the site where the samples were obtained," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "In addition we will be moving six continuous air monitoring stations into the area. We will put five near ground zero and one on Canal Street. The good news continues to be that the air samples we have taken have all been at levels that cause us no concern."

The continuous monitoring stations will augment the ambient air quality monitoring stations located in Brooklyn. EPA and OSHA will remain on site and continue to monitor for levels of asbestos, PCBs, lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the area throughout the long weeks of cleanup ahead. In addition, EPA will move in a bus that has the equipment to do instant organic analysis of samples of air at the site. It is called a Total Atmospheric Gas Analyzer and is similar to a unit used during the Gulf War to sample emissions from the oil fires in Kuwait.

The Agency is recommending that businesses in the area planning to reopen next week take precautions including cleaning air conditioning filters and using vacuums with appropriate filters to collect dust. Vacuuming will reduce the chance of re-entering workers tracking dust into the buildings. This work is already underway by city agencies.

The U.S. Coast Guard will be assisting EPA in monitoring impacts, if any, of today's rainstorms on the water quality. However, most of the rainflow is expected to be handled by the City's waste water treatment facility, since there will be only limited sewage in the combined sewer system. EPA has a vessel on site in New York to handle any necessary testing.

*do not indicate levels of concern
other
Hanna
but
still
within
acceptable
range*

Additional technical support has been offered to EPA in New York from the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General's Office of Environmental and Occupational Health. That support would involve five engineers and/or environmental technicians and equipment if needed.

###



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Response to September 11

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September 16, 2001

EPA, OSHA Update Asbestos Data, Continue to Reassure Public about Contamination Fears [\[En Español\]](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Labor's Occupational Health and Safety Administration today announced that the majority of air and dust samples monitored at the crash site and in lower Manhattan do not indicate levels of concern for asbestos. The new samples confirm previous reports that ambient air quality meets OSHA standards and consequently is not a cause for public concern. New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards.

EPA has found variable asbestos levels in bulk debris and dust on the ground, but EPA continues to believe that there is no significant health risk to the general public in the coming days. Appropriate steps are being taken to clean up this dust and debris.

"Our tests show that it is safe for New Yorkers to go back to work in New York's financial district," said John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA. "Keeping the streets clean and being careful not to track dust into buildings will help protect workers from remaining debris."

OSHA staff walked through New York's financial district on September 13th, wearing personal air monitors and collected data on potential asbestos exposure levels. All but two samples contained no asbestos. Two samples contained very low levels of an unknown fiber, which is still being analyzed.

Air Samples taken on Sept. 13th inside buildings in New York's financial district were negative for asbestos. Debris samples collected outside buildings on cars and other surfaces contained small percentages of asbestos, ranging from 2.1 to 3.3 - slightly above the 1 percent trigger for defining asbestos material.

"EPA will be deploying 16 vacuum trucks this weekend in an effort to remove as much of the dust and debris as possible from the site where the samples were obtained," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "In addition we will be moving six continuous air monitoring stations into the area. We will put five near ground zero and one on Canal Street. The good news continues to be that the air samples we have taken have all been at levels that cause us no concern."

The continuous monitoring stations will augment the ambient air quality monitoring located in Brooklyn. EPA and OSHA will remain on site and continue to monitor for levels of asbestos, PCBs, lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the area throughout the long weeks of cleanup ahead. In addition, EPA will move in a bus that has the equipment to do instant analysis of volatile organic compound samples from air at the site. It is called a Total Atmospheric Gas Analyzer and is similar to a unit used during the Gulf War to sample emissions from the oil fires in Kuwait.

The Agency is recommending that businesses in the area planning to reopen next week take precautions including cleaning air conditioning filters and using vacuums with appropriate filters to collect dust. Vacuuming will reduce the chance of re-entering workers tracking dust into the buildings. This work is already underway by city agencies.

The U.S. Coast Guard will be assisting EPA in monitoring impacts, if any, of today's rainstorms on the water quality. However, most of the rainflow is expected to be handled by the City's waste water treatment facility, since there will be only limited sewage in the combined sewer system. EPA has a vessel on site in New York to handle any necessary testing.

Additional technical support has been offered to EPA in New York from the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General's Office of Environmental and Occupational Health. That support would involve five engineers and/or environmental technicians and equipment if needed.

Peter Jutro

09/27/01 09:37 AM

To: EpaHQ EOC/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc: Bonnie Piper/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Particulate Matter

Tina, Bonnie, & EOC

ORD NCEA has put together a fact sheet on PARTICULATE MATTER (PM) to help us answer questions about the dust resulting from the WTC collapse. You may want to have either OAQPS, OAR, or OGC add some information to it on levels and type of PM that we regulate under what authorities, but for now, this is a very good background information source to help in answering questions or just inform us.

* Tina/Bonnie - use this as you see appropriate.

* EOC staff - please check with your management to check on guidelines for using this information including procedures for forwarding it (or not) to Region II. Internal procedures on data sharing are evolving daily.

If you have any questions on the substance of what is written, please contact Linda Tuxen (584-3332) directly, and she will arrange to have your questions answered.

I can be reached today (Thursday) at (703) 836-4224 or (703) 855-2144.

Peter

----- Forwarded by Peter Jutro/DC/USEPA/US on 09/27/2001 09:16 AM -----

Linda Tuxen

09/26/2001 08:47 PM



To: Peter Jutro/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

cc: George Alapas/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Lester Grant/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Christopher

Zarba/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Mike Moore/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Art

Payne/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Emily Lee/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA,

William Wilson/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject: PM Fact Sheet

Peter, Attached is a draft fact sheet on PM that is in response to your request for information on PCBs, dioxins, and PM that could be used by the emergency response task force. It was prepared by NCEA/ORD's RTP staff. Please note that this draft underwent a very quick review by a few OAQPS staff but at this time it should not be considered officially cleared by OAQPS. If any changes are necessary as a result of a completed review by OAQPS, we will forward to you a revised fact sheet. My read through, however, shows a very good and useful effort by RTP staff. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.



newyork-pm.wp

Linda C. Tuxen

Special Assistant to the Director

National Center for Environmental Assessment (8601D)

Office of Research and Development

PM FACT SHEET

What is Particulate Matter (PM)

- Airborne particulate matter (PM) consists of many different substances suspended in air in the form of particles (solids or liquid droplets) that vary widely in size.
- Ordinarily, in most urban areas of the Northeastern United States (e.g., New York, Boston, etc.), the particle mix in ambient air is dominated by fine particles generated by combustion with smaller amounts of coarse soil dust. However, the coarse dust resulting from the collapse of World Trade Center (WTC) buildings and the removal of rubble likely contains high levels of building materials. The composition of this dust may be different and have different health effects than that of soil dust.

Health Effects of Dust and Smoke

- The effects of dust and smoke may range from eye and respiratory tract irritation in healthy people to more serious disorders in sensitive populations.
- Because dust and smoke are mixtures of different chemicals with different sizes, not everyone will experience the same effects.
- In general, the long-term risk from short-term exposures to dust and smoke is very low.

Sensitive Populations

- Most healthy adults will recover quickly from short-term dust and smoke exposures and will not suffer long-term consequences.
- Certain sensitive populations, described below, are susceptible to more severe symptoms. Exposure to the very smallest particles - called "fine particles" are of greatest concern and are associated with several serious health effects.
- Adverse health effects for some sensitive people have been associated with exposures to fine particles over short periods, such as several hours or a day.
- These include cough, phlegm, wheezing, shortness of breath, bronchitis, increased asthma attacks, aggravation of lung and heart disease.
 - Individuals with asthma and other respiratory diseases. Levels of pollutants that may not affect healthy people may cause breathing difficulties for people with asthma or other chronic lung diseases, especially children.

- **Individuals with emphysema and chronic bronchitis** may also experience a worsening of their conditions because of exposure to dust and smoke.
- **Individuals with cardiovascular disease.** Studies have linked particulate pollution to increased risk of hospitalizations for cardiovascular disease, heart attacks, and cardiovascular mortality. People with heart disease might also experience symptoms such as shortness of breath or chest tightness.
- **The elderly.** The elderly are more likely to have preexisting lung and heart diseases, and therefore are more susceptible to health effects from exposure to particle pollution.
- **Children.** Children, even those without pre-existing illness or chronic conditions, are sensitive to air pollution because their lungs are still developing, making them more susceptible to environmental threats than healthy adults. Studies have shown that in children, particulate pollution is associated with increased episodes of coughing and difficulty breathing, and decreased lung function.
- **Smokers.** People who smoke, especially those who have smoked for many years, generally have reduced lung functioning and may be affected by dust and smoke exposure. Smokers are also less likely to recognize and report symptoms from exposure to irritant chemicals than nonsmokers.

Title: E-mail Between CEQ And EPA

Purpose:

To document the auditor's review of e-mails between Mr. Sam Thornstrom, Council on Environmental Quality and Ms. Tina Kreisher, Associate Administrator of EPA's Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations at the time of the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster.

Source:

The attached e-mails were provided by Ms. Piper, Deputy Director, Office of Media Relations, Office of Public Affairs (202-564-4355).

Scope:

The Auditor reviewed the attached e-mails.

Background:

The auditor learned from Ms. Elissa Feldman, Associate Director of EPA's, Indoor Environments Division, that her office had helped prepare a web site on September 14, 2001 which would have provided information to the public concerning the WTC disaster (see workpaper A2b for a write-up of this interview). This web site was never activated. Ms. Feldman was not sure why the site was never activated. She indicated Mr. Jeff Clark, Director of EPA's Policy Analysis and Communication Staff might have more information about why the site was never activated. The auditor contacted Mr. Clark.

He did not know definitely why the site wasn't activated (see workpaper A2f for a write-up of this interview). He thought it may not have been activated simply because there were too many higher-priority projects underway. However, he indicated Ms. Piper was privy to the discussions about the proposed web site and he thought she might know if a decision was made about not activating the web site. The Auditor called Ms. Piper who did not remember how the discussions about the web site had been resolved. However, she indicated she would consult her e-mails. Later, the Auditor received the attached e-mails.

Auditor's Summary Of Principal Issues (from attached e-mail):

1. Mr. Thernstrom's communication to Ms. Kreisher includes the following points:
 - a. his office needs to see all information before it appears on EPA's web site;
 - b. "EPA's perception of what is problematic remains slightly different from . . . [his];
 - c. raw test data should not be released without being analyzed and interpreted.
2. From Ms. Piper's perspective, CEQ wanted to control all communications to the public:

". . . the White House/Council on Environmental Quality was very involved and requesting to call the shots about content of materials that go out in any fashion - press release, web, etc."

Bonnie Piper
12/04/02 02:51 PM
To: Chris Dunlap/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA
cc:
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

Chris: here is some information about World Trade Center information (data) being posted on the epa website. As you can see the White House/Council on Environmental Quality was very involved and requesting to call the shots about content of materials that go out in any fashion - press release, web, etc.

Bonnie
----- Forwarded by Bonnie Piper/DC/USEPA/US on 12/04/02 02:52 PM -----

Tina Kreisher
09/25/01 05:47 PM
To: Bonnie Piper/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc:
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

----- Forwarded by Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US on 09/25/01 05:47 PM -----



Samuel A. Thornkre
m@ceq.eop.gov
09/25/01 04:25 PM
To: Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc: Brian_R_Besanicensy@epd.eop.gov,
Scott_McClellan@who.eop.gov, James_Connaughton@ceq.eop.gov,
Elizabeth_A_Stolam@ceq.eop.gov
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

CEC

Given that the clearance process on this and has not been holding up EPA's ability to get data out, I don't quite see why it was necessary to post web site information without giving us the courtesy of a heads up and a chance to review. If you had done that, there would be no confusion about who was responsible for posting information about bioterrorism without proper clearance. "Desperation" at EPA or not, the WH clearance process was not holding you up on posting that information, since you had never submitted it to us.

As far as the sample you submitted today goes, in my opinion it shows that in fact there is a value to running things past us, since EPA's perception of what is problematic remains slightly different from my own. These issues are touchy, and it helps to have more than one set of eyes on them.

For instance, on the asbestos data, you propose disclosing that three samples were about EPA's 70 structures per mm sq. standard that you use to clear schools after asbestos removal. How does this compare to OSHA's standards? How does this speak to the short-term v. long-term exposure issues? How is the public to know whether this is ambient air or bulk dust? On the whole, what does these three samples in violation of that standard mean from a public health standpoint? What kind of cleanup is warranted, and why? Where were the samples that violated that standard taken? You only say "in and around ground zero and New Jersey."

AL - 2

leaving people in NJ to wonder about their safety. Giving people this raw data without any context is, in my opinion, only adding fuel to their fears.

Altogether, although I understand your and the Administrator's annoyance at being screwed by the WSJ today, I don't think that the best response is to panic and start posting lots of raw data without proper context and analysis of its meaning. Raw data alone is easily misunderstood and mischaracterized by political candidates in the city who have an axe to grind -- I think you only leave yourself more open to their attacks by giving them more ammunition. If the public needs more info, I think more press releases might help, or at least doing something more than just posting raw data -- a web site posting that includes press release-type language providing context. And I would prefer it if we continue to have the chance to review that information before it is posted. Unless there's a problem caused by slow WSJ review -- which there hasn't been so far -- I think we should stay in the loop.

Sam

!Embedded
image moved Kreisher.Tina@epamail.epa.gov
to file: 09/25/2001 03:44:11 PM
pic23669.pcz)

Record Type: Record

To: Samuel A. Tschernom/CEQ/EOFFBOP
cc:
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

Sam, I was in Chicago all day yesterday with the Administrator. It has taken me a while to get through the e-mails and voice mails from yesterday. Plus I have been yelling at the Wall Street Journal all morning over their ridiculous story on page A-10.

The web site information was put up out of desperation for the numbers of calls and e-mails we were getting. The answers were written from the press releases and the links were to other sites we assumed were pre-approved.

I am having someone check on the one you mentioned, which I agree, had not been approved. So far, no one is admitting that they are responsible.

If you were on the conference call today, you heard the administrator read everyone the riot act about having information on the web site to help people and reporters. She was more than mad about the Wall Street Journal story that said we could not give out the raw data. Hence the e-mail you have from me on whether or not we could use the format for our updates and simply put them on the web each day. We certainly would let you know first if there were a problem reading. So far we haven't encountered any save for the phosgene reading, which is now moot because the city expects to remove the detectors of it soon tomorrow.

thanks tina



pic23669.jpg

1. 2.

Bonnie Piper

12/04/02 02:51 PM

To: Chris Dunlap/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA
cc:
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----- Forwarded by Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US on 09/25/01 05:47 PM -----



Samuel A. Thernstrom
m@ceq.eop.gov

09/25/01 04:26 PM

To: Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc: Brian R. Besanceney@opd.eop.gov;
Scott_McClellan@whg.eop.gov, James_Connaughton@ceq.eop.gov,
Elizabeth_A_Stolpe@ceq.eop.gov
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

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Sam

(Embedded
image moved Kreisher.Tina@epamail.epa.gov
to file: 09/25/2001 03:44:17 PM
pic23669.pcx)

Record Type: Record

To: Samuel A. Thornstrom/CEQ/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Re: EPA web site info on 9/11-related info

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have from me on whether or not we could use the format for our updates and
simply put them on the web each day. We certainly would let you know first
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for the phosgene reading, which is now moot because the city expects to
remove the canisters of freon tomorrow.

Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center
Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse
Master Assignment Number: 2002 - 0000702

Title: Record of Contact with Ms. Eileen McGinnis, Chief of Staff, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Purpose: To obtain the Chief of Staff's perspective on the process of issuing press releases and what steps might be taken to improve the Agency's response to future disasters.

Representing:

Environmental Protection Agency:

Eileen McGinnis, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator, EPA

Office of Inspector General:

Rick Beusse, Director for Program Evaluation, Air Quality Issues, OIG, EPA

Jim Satfield, Evaluator-In-Charge, OIG, RTP

Chris Dunlap, Auditor, OIG, RTP

Date/time: December 18, 2002; approximately 1:20 - 2:00 pm, and from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Place: Ms. McGinnis' Office, Ariel Rios Building, Washington, DC.

Follow-up Communication: Ms. McGinnis was provided a copy of the initial record of contact. On January 27, 2003, she provided clarifying comments over the telephone for several paragraphs. These clarifications were incorporated in this record (paragraph numbers 6, 9, 16, 20 and 27), and the revised record was sent back to Ms. McGinnis on Jan. 27 for her confirmation of accuracy. On Feb. 12, 2003, via e-mail Ms. McGinnis offered one additional clarification and this change was made to the record (item 27). All clarifications have now been incorporated in this record.

Information Obtained/Results:

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Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center
Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse
Master Assignment Number: 2002 - 0000702

(Note: All information below was obtained from the Chief of Staff unless otherwise noted.)

1. Shortly after September 11, there was a daily meeting at 8:30 in the morning to discuss the crisis situation. The participants changed from day-to-day. This group discussed EPA's press releases along with many other topics. At the 8:30 am meeting, the Administrator set the tone for the press releases. EPA does not use nor require an approval checklist or other signature authority prior to issuing a press release; this practice did not change during the post-September 11 period of developing and issuing press releases.
2. EPA's early WTC "press releases were written by committee" (the Chief of Staff could not remember exactly when this method of writing press releases may have tapered off or ceased).
3. Many sources provided information for the press releases, including EPA Region 2 officials and Mr. Sam Thornstrom (from the Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President). Information provided included wording and sentences to be included in EPA's press releases and the deletion of wording and sentences in draft press releases.
4. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was EPA's conduit to the National Security Council (NSC) and the primary mechanism used to write the press releases by committee. To her knowledge, all government entities dealt with the National Security Council through CEQ ("this was government wide"). "NSC was the final decision maker." "If Sam oked it, then it was issued." The Chief of Staff understood that Sam provided draft press releases to other government officials, but she does not know who these other government officials were. All of her communications regarding incorporating the views of the NSC and any others in EPA's press releases were channeled through Sam Thornstrom in CEQ.
5. Ms. McGinnis did not approve any WTC press releases in writing or verbally. However, she indicated she was

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Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center
Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse
Master Assignment Number: 2002 - 0000702

kept informed about the content of draft press releases to the extent that she knew what was in each press release before it was released and, if there was a significant change after she saw a press release, she expected the revised press release with the significant change would be shown to her before it was released. When the press release was OK, she said Ms. Kreisher would know that it was OK and ready to be issued.

6. When asked whether this arrangement amounted to tacit approval of press releases, the Chief of Staff indicated she did not agree with this characterization of the process used to issue WTC press releases "because final approval came from the White House."
7. She does not remember if the Administrator saw any final WTC press releases prior to their issuance.
8. The Chief of Staff was asked about the statement in the press release on September 18th that the air in lower Manhattan was "safe to breathe" (see workpaper A1.a1, page 10, item number 61, and A1.a2, page 6). The Chief of Staff was asked whether there was concern about the accuracy of this statement. Her recollection was that they "did a lot of QC [quality checking] on that statement." It was supported. She further stated that "peer review later confirmed it . . . QC confirmed it." The Chief of Staff was asked whether we could see the QC data? She indicated that she didn't have the data to support the press releases. She suggested we contact Ms. Elaine Stanley's Office of Environmental Information (OEI) for the data.
9. The Chief of Staff indicated that, whereas everyone was concerned about the quality of monitoring data, there were two different viewpoints on the need to publicize monitoring results. One viewpoint was that monitoring results should not be released until they had been quality checked. The other viewpoint was that, under the circumstances, they could not wait for normal quality checks, and that the air monitoring results should be publicized as soon as possible. EPA's "culture" is "quality" not "speed," she noted. She

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Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center
Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse
Master Assignment Number: 2002 - 0000702

"does not think an enormous amount of raw data would prove to be useful." EPA opted to follow the latter approach for the WTC press releases issued in September 2002.

10. The Chief of Staff was asked whether they had considered putting qualifications in the press releases and whether there was "resistance" to putting in such qualifications? She replied that "she would not call it resistance," but would call it "competing priorities." They were always "juggling priorities." She stated that "national security" and "opening Wall Street" were the two major competing priorities.
11. The Chief of Staff was asked whether she was familiar with a "philosophy" that all government entities should speak with one voice, and whether:
 - a. accordingly, instructions for cleaning indoor spaces should be provided by New York City officials only, and not EPA officials; and
 - b. information about the possible health effects of the collapse of the World Trade Center should be provided by New York City officials only, and not EPA officials.

The Chief of Staff was asked if the Administrator knew whether this philosophy had any impact on the content of any of EPA's press releases. The Chief of Staff stated that she would not call these ideas a philosophy, but "she would think it was more the responsibility of the City" of New York to provide guidance to New Yorkers. According to the Chief of Staff, there was "recognition" within EPA that the City had responsibilities to address New Yorkers.

When asked whether there was any agreement or understanding that EPA would not discuss possible health effects or provide indoor cleaning instructions in EPA press releases, the Chief of Staff replied that she did not remember anyone saying we could not do either.

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Master Assignment Number: 2002 - 0000702

12. The Chief of Staff was shown two statements that were deleted from the draft version of the September 15th press release:
 - a. " . . . recent samples of dust gathered by OSHA on Water Street show higher levels of asbestos in EPA tests."
 - b. "The concern raised by these samples would be for the workers at the cleanup site and for those workers who might be returning to their offices on or near Water Street on Monday, September 17, 2001."

She was asked did she recall any discussion about deleting these sentences. She replied that she does not remember the deletions or any discussions about them. But she further stated that she distinctly recalled they always cautioned the workers at ground zero that they should take precautions and should wear masks.

13. The Chief of Staff was asked about her contact with Mr. James Connaughton, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. Did Mr. Connaughton provide information to her or the Administrator that became part of an EPA press release? The Chief of Staff replied that he had not.
14. The Chief of Staff was further asked whether she or the Administrator had provided information to Mr. Connaughton that became part of EPA's press releases through Mr. Connaughton's contact with his subordinate, Mr. Sam Thornstrom? The Chief of Staff replied that they had not.
15. The Chief of Staff indicated that her contacts with Mr. Connaughton dealt almost exclusively with the working relationship between his subordinate, Mr. Sam Thornstrom; and Ms. Tina Kreisher, the former Associate Administrator of EPA's Office of Communications, Education, and Media Relations, the predecessor to EPA's current Office of Public Administration (Ms. Kreisher was the official who issued EPA's WTC

Preparer: Chris Dunlap	Date: 02-12-03	Reviewer: JRB	Date: 03-12-03
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Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse
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press releases]. The Chief of Staff indicated the relationship between Mr. Thernstrom and Ms. Kreisher had been strained and that she [the Chief] had asked Mr. Connaughton to get Mr. Thernstrom to "lighten up." [Since the Chief approved this paragraph, the Auditor corrected the first name in the above sentence from "Connaughton" to "Thernstrom" and added the two words in brackets.]

16. The Chief of Staff indicated that discussions about the press releases had sometimes become quite heated ("screaming telephone calls"). She further stated that there was "give and take" on all sides. The Auditor asked whether Mr. Thernstrom had ever yielded on an issue. The Chief of Staff stated that he had yielded during several telephone conference calls. The Auditor replied that he had not been able to locate any indication that Mr. Thernstrom had ever yielded on any issue. The Auditor advised the Chief of Staff that it appeared when Mr. Thernstrom asked that a word, phrase, or sentence be deleted from a draft press release, it was deleted. Also, when Mr. Thernstrom asked that a specific word, phrase, or sentence be added to a draft press release, it was added. The Auditor asked whether the Chief of Staff could identify an issue on which Mr. Thernstrom had yielded. She replied that it had been a long time since the terrorist attack and she could not recall a specific issue off hand. The Auditor asked if she could please let him know if she later recalled such an example. She indicated that she would do so.
17. The Chief of Staff was read the following statement: "EPA's press release on September 16, 2001 stated: New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards" [see workpaper A1.a1, page 7, item 39; also A1.a2, page 5]. The Chief of Staff was informed that OSHA officials have not been able to identify the information for us but they have indicated none of their sampling that was analyzed before September 17 was done indoors or in residential spaces (see workpaper B1e, page 4, item 16). Did the Chief of Staff know what OSHA data, or any other data,

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Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center

Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse

Master Assignment Number: 2002 - 0000702

support the above statement from EPA's press release on September 16th?

The Chief of Staff did not recall any discussions about the quoted statement or the extent of any supporting evidence that may have been considered. (The Chief of Staff asked whether the statement was written by Mr. Thernstrom and was told that it was written by Mr. Thernstrom and was added to EPA's 9/16/01 press release.) [no problem-see work paper A3b, pg 9 - Dunlap 9-11-03]

18. The Chief of Staff was advised that Mr. Thernstrom had expressed his opinion in writing that putting monitoring data on the web without analysis was not constructive. The Chief of Staff was also advised that at least one EPA office had prepared a website which contained cautionary information, but this website was never activated (see workpaper A2b1). Did the Chief of Staff know why this website was not activated and whether Mr. Thernstrom's position had an impact on the decision not to activate the website? The Chief of Staff had no recollections on this subject.
19. The Chief of Staff was asked whether there was "an information black out" at any point in time (whether there was a decision to withhold information for any number of possible constructive reasons)? The Chief of Staff replied "no." She stated that "it was the opposite." They were trying to get information out as quickly as possible.
20. When told that the Auditor had not located anyone in EPA who "claimed Ownership of EPA's early WTC press releases", the Chief of Staff asked whether Ms. Kreisher had claimed ownership? The Auditor replied that Ms. Kreisher stated specifically that "she did not claim ownership of EPA's early WTC press releases" (Ms Kreisher had literally said " . . . [she] did not feel like it was . . . (her) press release" - see workpaper A2a, page 7, item 27). The Auditor asked the Chief of Staff: "Would you be able to claim ownership of EPA's early press releases concerning the World

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Trade Center?" She replied, "no." She said that, in her opinion, "the ownership was joint ownership between EPA and the White House."

21. The Chief of Staff was asked to discuss the Administrator's statement that legislation is needed to clarify indoor air responsibilities. The Chief of Staff was asked to please detail what the Administrator thinks needs to be done in this area. Are authorities under CERCLA/SARA not sufficient? The Chief of Staff indicated that she was not an authority on the laws or regulations that address these questions. Her recollection is that the staff told the Administrator that she needed additional authority to address the indoor problems caused by the terrorist attack. Her recollection is that the statutes are not clear on EPA's indoor air responsibilities.
22. The Chief of Staff was asked to please discuss the deliberations and resulting decisions on whether the National Contingency Plan should be implemented. She stated that the possibility of declaring the lower Manhattan area around the WTC a Superfund site was discussed but she does not recall the details of that discussion.
23. The Chief of Staff was read the following question: "When drafting the press releases in September, what data was reviewed beside EPA's data? Specifically, did EPA officials consider monitoring data from OSHA, ConEd, New York City?"

The Chief of Staff stated that she remembers a lot of data being discussed, but it has been over fifteen months and she does not recall the source of the data or what specific data may have been relied upon in writing a press release. Her strongest recollection about the data was the fact that there was an enormous amount of data and they were all trying to figure out how they could handle it.

24. The Chief of Staff was read the following question: "Were the limitations in the asbestos methods and the

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health benchmarks for asbestos discussed when the press releases were being drafted?"

The Chief of Staff indicated such discussions were held, but she does not recall anything about these discussions.

25. The Chief of Staff was read the following question: "Was the lack of particulate matter air monitoring data near the site discussed as the press releases were being drafted?"

The Chief of Staff indicated she does not recall any specific discussions about particulate matter.

26. The Chief of Staff was read the following question: "On September 11th there was a bulk dust reading of 4.5% and 13 of the 29 bulk dust samples taken on September 15th contained more than 1 percent asbestos (this information was known on September 16th). By September 18th there were two measurements above the AHERA standard. Were these measurements considered when the September 18th press release was drafted?"

The Chief of Staff does not recall any specific discussions about these figures.

27. According to Ms. McGinnis, EPA focused its efforts on outdoor air. Quality assurance checks confirmed that EPA's assurances about outdoor air were correct. The Chief of Staff further stated: "Over time, we saw that New York City was not prepared to handle all the issues related to indoor air and offered to support them."
28. Asked about the long gap in EPA press releases from early October 2001 to December 2001, the Chief of Staff indicated that as information was placed on EPA's website, there was less need to put information in EPA's press releases and, therefore, fewer press releases were issued.

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29. The Chief of Staff indicated she did not have any documentation of any kind concerning the WTC press releases.
30. When asked about "lessons learned," the Chief of Staff stated that the "White House was correct to take a coordinating role." She further stated that it was very difficult to collect the data so they could "speak with one voice." Data was being collected by different entities in different forms. In the future, we need to plan ahead so that information is collected in a manner that it can be readily processed. She cited an example in Pennsylvania where data collectors had all used the same hand-held data recorder.

Signed: _____
Eileen McGinnis,
Chief of Staff, EPA

Date: _____

Preparer: Chris Dunlap	Date: 02-12-03	Reviewer: JRB	Date: 02-12-03
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Attachment 1, Page 1 of 2

Questions Provided To
Chief of Staff McGinnis

Topics for Discussion, Wednesday, December 18, 1 PM

1. Please discuss your role in the preparation of the first 6 press releases on WTC (through Oct. 3, 2001).
2. Please discuss the review and approval process used to evaluate the wording of these first 6 press releases before they were issued.
3. Please discuss the information and data you used to review and approve press releases, and where this data may be obtained.
4. Please discuss whether changes were made to drafted press releases by, or as a result of, communications or input from outside parties, and if so, why.
5. Please discuss how your role and/or the process of reviewing and approving early press releases may have changed over time, particularly as it relates to the press releases issued from Oct. 4 to the end of December, 2001, and for the press releases issued in 2002.
6. Please discuss the role of the Administrator in the preparation, review, and approval of the first 6 press releases.
7. For the first 6 press releases, please discuss how the decision was made to delete (or not include) information on (a) potential health effects from exposure to WTC pollutants of concern, and (b) cleaning instructions for residents, workers, and owners.

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Questions Provided To
Chief of Staff McGinnis

8. Please provide copies of (or full access to) any and all electronic or hard copy transmissions of data, analyses of data, or summaries of data related to air quality in the WTC and surrounding area, including faxes, e-mails, mail, messengered, or other documents from EPA Region 2, Edison, NJ, or any other EPA offices, whether used to support the first 6 press releases or not.

9. Please discuss the Administrator's statement that legislation is needed to clarify indoor air responsibilities. Please detail what the Administrator thinks needs to be done in this area. Are authorities under CERCLA/SARA not sufficient?

10. Please discuss the deliberations and resulting decisions on whether the National Contingency Plan should be implemented.

11. Please discuss whether information was withheld from the public during the first few weeks after September 11, and if so, why?

Preparer: Chris Dunlap	Date: 02-12-03	Reviewer: JRB	Date: 02-12-03
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Attachment 2
Followup E-mail
Page 1 of 1



Rick Beusse

02/12/03 03:53 PM

To: Eileen McGinnis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc: Chris Dunlap/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: [2]

Thank you again for reviewing the record of our December 18 meeting. Your clarifications below have been made to the attached file exactly as you requested. Once you have reviewed these final changes, please sign the document electronically where indicated (page 9) and return to us via e-mail. Please contact me at 919-541-5747, or Chris Dunlap at 919-542-1029, if you have any questions. Thank you again, and best wishes.

- Rick Beusse

Attachment



ROC w- Chief-of-Staff 12-18-02
Eileen McGinnis

Eileen McGinnis
Sent by: Linda
Hoffman

To: Rick Beusse/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA
cc:
Subject:

02/12/03 09:32 AM

I reviewed the record of contact amended on January, 27, 2003, and offer one additional correction.

On item 27 please strike "in retrospect, there was a need to focus on indoor air". Please substitute the following sentence: "over time, we saw that New York City was not prepared to handle all the issues related to indoor air and offered to support them".

Please note that this is my final correction.

Thank you.

Eileen McGinnis

Preparer: Chris Dunlap	Date: 02-12-03	Reviewer: JRB	Date: 02-12-03
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Attachment 3
Followup Note
Page 1 of 2

Office of Program Evaluation

Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse

Master Assignment Number: 2002 - 0000702

NOTE TO THE WORKPAPER FILES REGARDING SENSITIVE TESTIMONIAL EVIDENCE, in regard to the following interview:

Title: Record of Contact with Ms. Eileen McGinnis, Chief of Staff, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Purpose: To obtain the Chief of Staff's perspective on the process of issuing press releases and what steps might be taken to improve the Agency's response to future disasters.

Representing:

Environmental Protection Agency:

Eileen McGinnis, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator, EPA

Office of Inspector General:

Rick Bouche, Director for Program Evaluation, Air Quality Issues, OIG, EPA

Jim Hayfield, Evaluator-In-Charge, OIG, RTP

Chris Dunlap, Auditor, OIG, RTP

Date/Time: December 15, 2002; approximately 1:20 - 2:00 pm, and from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Place: Ms. McGinnis' Office, Ariel Rios Building, Washington, DC."

Note to File:

Because sensitive testimonial information was obtained/provided by Ms. McGinnis during the Dec. 18, 2002 interviews, we chose to send the write-up of our interview to her to ensure the accuracy of the information provided and the accuracy of the statements made characterizing EPA actions and decisions regarding the Agency's response to the WTC collapse. As described in the attached document, multiple follow-up communications were conducted with Ms. McGinnis to ensure that the information was accurate. The history of these communications is

~~attached in New York 1, File 12.~~ *McGinnis*

Of particular note is her February 12, 2003 e-mail where she notes that she has reviewed the most recent changes made to the write-up and only offers one more change, that change being the addition of the statement that "over time, we (EPA/sic) saw that New York City was not prepared to handle all the issues related to indoor air and offered to support them." She closes

Preparer: J. Rick Bouche	Date: 04-23-03	Reviewer:	Date:
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Preparer: Chris Dunlap	Date: 02-12-03	Reviewer: JRB	Date: 02-12-03
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Southern Audit/Evaluation Resource Center

Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse

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Attachment 3
Followup Note
Page 2 of 2

Office of Program Evaluation

Assignment Title: Evaluation Of EPA's Response To The WTC Collapse

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this e-mail by noting that this is her "final correction." We had requested that Ms. McGinnis return a signed and dated copy of the interview write-up, as amended, to incorporate her comments to us, but she did not do so. This was discussed with Kwai Chan, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation, and it was agreed that we had more than met the standard for documenting sensitive testimonial information, and thus we chose not to continue to seek her signature on the final write-up. It was agreed that the attached final write-up, together with Ms. McGinnis' e-mails, was sufficient evidence and met the GAO standards without her signature affixed to the end of the write-up.

Signed:

J. Rick Beusse,

Director for Program Evaluation - Air Quality Issues.

04/23/03

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Preparer: Chris Dunlap	Date: 02-12-03	Reviewer: JRB	Date: 02-12-03
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Claudia McMurray
09/14/01 09:15 AM

To: Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Joe
Marsyak/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Stephanie Bell/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc:
Subject: OERR Special Report update #6 - Terrorist Incident

Assume you have this, but just in case. CMcM.

----- Forwarded by Claudia McMurray/DC/USEPA/US on 09/14/01 09:12 AM -----

Marianne Horinko
09/14/01 08:35 AM

To: Claudia McMurray/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Eileen
McGinnis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Susan Spencer/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
cc:
Subject: OERR Special Report update #6 - Terrorist Incident

fyi

Marianne Lamont Horinko
Program Advisor
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 5101
1200 Ariel Rios Building
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 260-4610
(202) 260-3527

----- Forwarded by Marianne Horinko/DC/USEPA/US on 09/14/01 08:33 AM -----

Colby Stanton
09/13/01 06:09 PM

To: OERR Special Temp
cc:
Subject: OERR Special Report update #6 - Terrorist Incident

**OERR Special Report
Major Terrorist Incident
Multiple Airplane Hijackings and Crashes
into Public and Government Buildings
New York and Arlington, VA**

**Thursday, September 13, 2001
5:45 PM
Update #6**

* This special report updates previous OERR Special Reports on Tuesday's terrorist incidents involving the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, VA.

* EPA Regions 2 and 3 both continue supporting FEMA in responding to the catastrophes in New York and Virginia.

Region 2

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

- * EPA Region 2 has now collected over 20 dust samples and 10 air samples. Only one dust sample showed any asbestos at levels of concern; all others indicated that asbestos concentrations are below any level of concern. However, asbestos related to the building debris continues to be a concern, especially as FBI agents and search and rescue personnel sift debris from the collapse in searching for evidence and casualties.
- * EPA Region 2 and HQ have been in contact with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding health issues related to the indoor and outdoor air quality at financial buildings in the destruction area. At CEQ's request, EPA Region 2 is coordinating on a case-by-case basis with these companies to assist them in obtaining information needed to return to business.
- * EPA Region 1, as EPA Region 2's back-up Region, is sending On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) to support Region 2 beginning tomorrow. EPA Region 6 will also send additional personnel beginning this coming Monday.
- * EPA Region 2 and OSHA Region 2 are closely coordinating regarding worker health issues. EPA and OSHA have coordinated in planning air monitoring efforts in the area of the World Trade Center. Under OSHA regulations, in the State of New York, OSHA is responsible for Federal employees, New York law establishes State authority over Health and Safety (H&S) issues for State and City employees, and EPA has authority over H&S issues for volunteers. All agencies are coordinating at the regional level to encourage effective protection of workers during the response to this tragedy. OSHA Region 2 is currently planning to provide fit-testing and training for over 200 FBI agents as soon as respirators arrive.
- * EPA Region 2 is also coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the environmentally safe disposal of debris from the World Trade Center.

Region 3

- * EPA Region 3 continues to maintain an on-site presence at the Pentagon and has planned and initiated an active air monitoring and sampling effort in the area. Results of initial sampling are expected in three to four days. EPA continues to coordinate with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the D.C. Department of Health/Environmental Health Administration regarding air monitoring and detection of any off-site public health or environmental concerns. Search efforts in the area of the Pentagon have been severely limited by structural integrity concerns, thereby requiring more limited efforts by EPA Regional personnel.
- * EPA Region 3 has been in contact with their back-up Region, EPA Region 4, to discuss their potential need for support as the response continues. Although support is not currently needed, Region 4 is on stand-by.

HQ

Marianne Horinko

09/14/01 12:02 PM

To: Eileen McGinnis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Claudia

McMurray/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Susan

Spencer/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Tina Kreisher/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

cc:

Subject: Update on the Terrorism Incident Response

Note additions re water main breaks and water quality sampling. I expect they will report more details at 2:00.

Marianne Lamont Horinko

Program Advisor

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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1200 Ariel Rios Building

Washington, DC 20460

(202) 260-4610

(202) 260-3527

----- Forwarded by Marianne Horinko/DC/USEPA/US on 09/14/01 12:01 PM -----

Colby Stanton

09/14/01 11:52 AM

To: OERR Special Temp

cc:

Subject: Update on the Terrorism Incident Response

**OERR Special Report
Major Terrorist Incident
Multiple Airplane Hijackings and Crashes
into Public and Government Buildings
New York and Arlington, VA**

Friday, September 14, 2001

11:30 AM

Update #7

* This special report updates previous OERR Special Reports on Tuesday's terrorist incidents involving the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City and the Pentagon in Arlington, VA.

* EPA Regions 2 and 3 both continue supporting FEMA in responding to the catastrophes in New York and Virginia.

Region 2

* EPA Region 2 personnel continue to be co-located with FEMA at all their Region 2 locations. EPA Region 2/Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 has now been issued \$3 million in Mission Assignments (MAs) from FEMA to continue air monitoring and clean-up efforts following the incident. EPA's primary response focus currently includes continued air monitoring and sampling, as well as dust

sampling, for asbestos; water quality monitoring during today's rains; debris transport monitoring; and facilitating return of business to the Financial District.

- To date, all perimeter outdoor air monitoring and sampling results have shown no contaminant levels of concern. However, the Region plans additional sampling and monitoring today, trying to get closer to the actual impact zone (i.e., "Ground-Zero"). EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) is bringing their Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus into Manhattan today to speed analysis of samples collected within the area of the World Trade Center.

- Asbestos related to the building debris continues to be a concern, especially as FBI agents and search and rescue personnel sift debris from the collapse in searching for evidence and casualties. EPA and OSHA's Region 2 offices continue to coordinate, and are pleased to report that responder use of personal protective equipment is increasing. EPA Region 2 continues to monitor debris transportation to the Freshkills Landfill.

- EPA Region 2 and HQ continue to coordinate with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding health issues related to the indoor and outdoor air quality at financial buildings in the destruction area. At CEQ's request, EPA Region 2 is coordinating on a case-by-case basis with these companies to assist them in obtaining information needed to return to business. Yesterday's efforts were slowed by gas leaks in the area, which are being addressed by New York City and ConEd. It is expected that efforts to get financial businesses access to all locations will take some time, with work continuing throughout the weekend. U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Atlantic Strike Team personnel are assisting Region 2 in this effort.

- USCG Activities New York will be assisting EPA Region 2 in monitoring the impacts, if any, of today's rainstorms on water quality. However, most of the rainflow is expected to be handled by the City's waste water treatment facility, since there will be only limited sewage in the combined sewer system. In addition, although numerous water main breaks have resulted from the incident, they are not expected to result in environmental impacts. These breaks are not yet the focus of emergency response efforts.

- The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)/U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Office's Environmental and Occupational Health personnel have offered technical support to EPA Region 2 in the form of engineers, environmental technicians (e.g., sampling personnel), and equipment if needed. Five DOD representatives are expected to arrive in Region 2/Edison later today to discuss Region 2's needs, as well as potential DOD staff support needs. Up to 56 DOD staffers are available if needed.

Region 3

- EPA Region 3 continues to staff the FEMA Region 3 ROC, which has moved back to Philadelphia and shifted to 12-hour/7-day operations. EPA is also staffing the Environmental Response Team-Advance Element (ERT-A), which is today transitioning into a Disaster Field Office (DFO) in Arlington, Virginia. EPA Region 3 also continues to maintain an on-site presence at the Pentagon.

- EPA Region 3 OSCs and Air inspectors have planned and initiated an active air monitoring and sampling effort in the area, coordinating with Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Washington, D.C.'s Department of Health/Environmental Health Administration. All initial results indicate that little air pollution impact has resulted from the incident.

- EPA Region 3 continues to coordinate with DOD, who has the lead for the Pentagon response effort, to ensure that indoor and outdoor monitoring and sampling is conducted in a coordinated manner. EPA has taken several debris/soil and air samples for analysis to detect any potential off-site impacts, but DOD is expected to continue additional, broader analysis to detect any potential on-site impacts.

HQ

- EPA HQ continues staffing FBI HQ's Strategic Intelligence Operations Center (SIOC), FEMA's Emergency Support Team (EST), and the EPA HQ EOC on a 24-hour basis until further notice.
- OERR and the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) will continue monitoring the situation; the Administrator's conference call is scheduled for 2:00 PM EDT, while a National Incident Coordination Team (NICT) meeting is scheduled for 3:30 PM EDT (NICT meeting to be located in the EPA HQ EOC). Please contact the OERR EOC desk at 202-564-8707 with any questions.



special7.wpd